

Pyrazole Compounds

This invention relates to substituted pyrazoles having HSP90 inhibitory activity, to the use of such compounds in medicine, in relation to diseases which are responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity such as cancers, and to pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds.

Background to the invention

Molecular chaperones maintain the appropriate folding and conformation of proteins and are crucial in regulating the balance between protein synthesis and degradation. They have been shown to be important in regulating many important cellular functions, such as cell proliferation and apoptosis (Jolly and Morimoto, 2000; Smith et al., 1998; Smith, 2001).

Heat Shock Proteins (HSPs)

Exposure of cells to a number of environmental stresses, including heat shock, alcohols, heavy metals and oxidative stress, results in the cellular accumulation of a number of chaperones, commonly known as heat shock proteins (HSPs). Induction of HSPs protects the cell against the initial stress insult, enhances recovery and leads to maintenance of a stress tolerant state. It has also become clear, however, that certain HSPs may also play a major molecular chaperone role under normal, stress-free conditions by regulating the correct folding, degradation, localization and function of a growing list of important cellular proteins.

A number of multigene families of HSPs exist, with individual gene products varying in cellular expression, function and localization. They are classified according to molecular weight, e.g., HSP70, HSP90, and HSP27.

Several diseases in humans can be acquired as a result of protein misfolding (reviewed in Tytell et al., 2001; Smith et al., 1998). Hence the development of therapies which disrupt the molecular chaperone machinery may prove to be beneficial. In some conditions (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, prion diseases and Huntington's disease), misfolded proteins can cause protein aggregation

resulting in neurodegenerative disorders. Also, misfolded proteins may result in loss of wild type protein function, leading to deregulated molecular and physiological functions in the cell.

HSPs have also been implicated in cancer. For example, there is evidence of differential expression of HSPs which may relate to the stage of tumour progression (Martin et al., 2000; Conroy et al., 1996; Kawanishi et al., 1999; Jameel et al., 1992; Hoang et al., 2000; Lebeau et al., 1991). As a result of the involvement of HSP90 in various critical oncogenic pathways and the discovery that certain natural products with anticancer activity are targeting this molecular chaperone, the fascinating new concept has been developed that inhibiting HSP function may be useful in the treatment of cancer. The first molecular chaperone inhibitor is currently undergoing clinical trials.

HSP90

HSP90 constitutes about 1-2% of total cellular protein, and is usually present in the cell as a dimer in association with one of a number of other proteins (see, e.g., Pratt, 1997). It is essential for cell viability and it exhibits dual chaperone functions (Young et al., 2001). It plays a key role in the cellular stress response by interacting with many proteins after their native conformation has been altered by various environmental stresses, such as heat shock, ensuring adequate protein folding and preventing non-specific aggregation (Smith et al., 1998). In addition, recent results suggest that HSP90 may also play a role in buffering against the effects of mutation, presumably by correcting the inappropriate folding of mutant proteins (Rutherford and Lindquist, 1998). However, HSP90 also has an important regulatory role. Under normal physiological conditions, together with its endoplasmic reticulum homologue GRP94, HSP90 plays a housekeeping role in the cell, maintaining the conformational stability and maturation of several key client proteins. These can be subdivided into three groups: (a) steroid hormone receptors, (b) Ser/Thr or tyrosine kinases (e.g., ERBB2, RAF-1, CDK4, and LCK), and (c) a collection of apparently unrelated proteins, e.g., mutant p53 and the catalytic subunit of telomerase hTERT. All of these proteins play key regulatory roles in many physiological and biochemical

processes in the cell. New HSP90 client proteins are continuously being identified.

The highly conserved HSP90 family in humans consists of four genes, namely the cytosolic HSP90 α and HSP90 β isoforms (Hickey et al., 1989), GRP94 in the endoplasmic reticulum (Argon et al., 1999) and HSP75/TRAP1 in the mitochondrial matrix (Felts et al., 2000). It is thought that all the family members have a similar mode of action, but bind to different client proteins depending on their localization within the cell. For example, ERBB2 is known to be a specific client protein of GRP94 (Argon et al., 1999) and type 1 tumour necrosis factor receptor (TNFR1) and RB have both been shown to be clients of TRAP1 (Song et al., 1995; Chen et al., 1996).

HSP90 participates in a series of complex interactions with a range of client and regulatory proteins (Smith, 2001). Although the precise molecular details remain to be elucidated, biochemical and X-ray crystallographic studies (Prodromou et al., 1997; Stebbins et al., 1997) carried out over the last few years have provided increasingly detailed insights into the chaperone function of HSP90.

Following earlier controversy on this issue, it is now clear that HSP90 is an ATP-dependent molecular chaperone (Prodromou et al, 1997), with dimerization of the nucleotide binding domains being essential for ATP hydrolysis, which is in turn essential for chaperone function (Prodromou et al, 2000a). Binding of ATP results in the formation of a toroidal dimer structure in which the N terminal domains are brought into closer contact with each other resulting in a conformational switch known as the 'clamp mechanism' (Prodromou and Pearl, 2000b).

Known HSP90 Inhibitors

The first class of HSP90 inhibitors to be discovered was the benzoquinone ansamycin class, which includes the compounds herbimycin A and geldanamycin. They were shown to reverse the malignant phenotype of

fibroblasts transformed by the *v-Src* oncogene (Uehara et al., 1985), and subsequently to exhibit potent antitumour activity in both *in vitro* (Schulte et al., 1998) and *in vivo* animal models (Supko et al., 1995).

Immunoprecipitation and affinity matrix studies have shown that the major mechanism of action of geldanamycin involves binding to HSP90 (Whitesell et al., 1994; Schulte and Neckers, 1998). Moreover, X-ray crystallographic studies have shown that geldanamycin competes at the ATP binding site and inhibits the intrinsic ATPase activity of HSP90 (Prodromou et al., 1997; Panaretou et al., 1998). This in turn prevents the formation of mature multimeric HSP90 complexes capable of chaperoning client proteins. As a result, the client proteins are targeted for degradation via the ubiquitin proteasome pathway. 17-Allylamino, 17-demethoxygeldanamycin (17AAG) retains the property of HSP90 inhibition resulting in client protein depletion and antitumour activity in cell culture and xenograft models (Schulte et al, 1998; Kelland et al, 1999), but has significantly less hepatotoxicity than geldanamycin (Page et al, 1997). 17AAG is currently being evaluated in Phase I clinical trials.

Radicicol is a macrocyclic antibiotic shown to reverse the malignant phenotype of *v-Src* and *v-Ha-Ras* transformed fibroblasts (Kwon et al, 1992; Zhao et al, 1995). It was shown to degrade a number of signalling proteins as a consequence of HSP90 inhibition (Schulte et al., 1998). X-ray crystallographic data confirmed that radicicol also binds to the N terminal domain of HSP90 and inhibits the intrinsic ATPase activity (Roe et al., 1998). Radicicol lacks antitumour activity *in vivo* due to the unstable chemical nature of the compound.

Coumarin antibiotics are known to bind to bacterial DNA gyrase at an ATP binding site homologous to that of the HSP90. The coumarin, novobiocin, was shown to bind to the carboxy terminus of HSP90, i.e., at a different site to that occupied by the benzoquinone ansamycins and radicicol which bind at the N-terminus (Marcu et al., 2000b). However, this still resulted in inhibition of HSP90 function and degradation of a number of HSP90-chaperoned

signalling proteins (Marcu et al., 2000a). Geldanamycin cannot bind HSP90 subsequent to novobiocin; this suggests that some interaction between the N and C terminal domains must exist and is consistent with the view that both sites are important for HSP90 chaperone properties.

A purine-based HSP90 inhibitor, PU3, has been shown to result in the degradation of signalling molecules, including erb-B2, and to cause cell cycle arrest and differentiation in breast cancer cells (Chiosis et al., 2001).

HSP90 as a Therapeutic Target

Due to its involvement in regulating a number of signalling pathways that are crucially important in driving the phenotype of a tumour, and the discovery that certain bioactive natural products exert their effects via HSP90 activity, the molecular chaperone HSP90 is currently being assessed as a new target for anticancer drug development (Neckers et al., 1999).

The predominant mechanism of action of geldanamycin, 17AAG, and radicicol involves binding to HSP90 at the ATP binding site located in the N-terminal domain of the protein, leading to inhibition of the intrinsic ATPase activity of HSP90 (see, e.g., Prodromou et al., 1997; Stebbins et al., 1997; Panaretou et al., 1998).

Inhibition of HSP90 ATPase activity prevents recruitment of co-chaperones and encourages the formation of a type of HSP90 heterocomplex from which these client proteins are targeted for degradation via the ubiquitin proteasome pathway (see, e.g., Neckers et al., 1999; Kelland et al., 1999).

Treatment with HSP90 inhibitors leads to selective degradation of important proteins involved in cell proliferation, cell cycle regulation and apoptosis, processes which are fundamentally important in cancer.

Inhibition of HSP90 function has been shown to cause selective degradation of important signalling proteins involved in cell proliferation, cell cycle

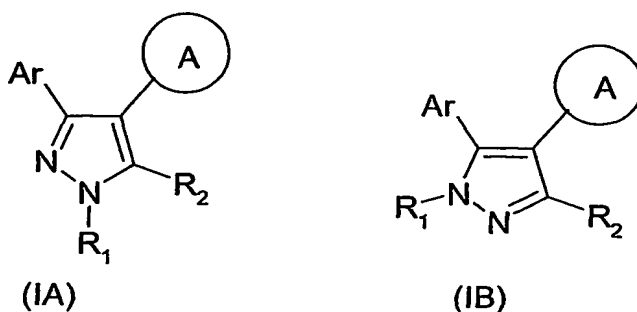
regulation and apoptosis, processes which are fundamentally important and which are commonly deregulated in cancer (see, e.g., Hostein et al., 2001). An attractive rationale for developing drugs against this target for use in the clinic is that by simultaneously depleting proteins associated with the transformed phenotype, one may obtain a strong antitumour effect and achieve a therapeutic advantage against cancer versus normal cells. These events downstream of HSP90 inhibition are believed to be responsible for the antitumour activity of HSP90 inhibitors in cell culture and animal models (see, e.g., Schulte et al., 1998; Kelland et al., 1999).

Brief description of the invention

The present invention makes available a new class of substituted pyrazole compounds, which are HSP90 inhibitors and which inhibit cancer cell proliferation. Aromatic substitution on one ring carbon atom and non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic substitution on an adjacent ring carbon atom are principle characterising features of the compounds of the invention.

Detailed description of the invention

According to the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



wherein

Ar is an aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl), heteroaryl, or heteroaryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl) group, any of which being optionally substituted in the aryl or heteroaryl part thereof,

R₁ is hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R_2 is hydrogen, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkenyl, or C_1 - C_6 alkynyl; or a carboxyl, carboxamide or carboxyl ester group; and;

ring A is a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ where

Alk^1 , Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-OC(=O)-$, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

A subset of the compounds of the invention consists of those of formula (IA) or (IB) as defined above, wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aryl, or heteroaryl radical; and ring A is a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ where

Alk^1 , Alk^2 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-OC(=O)-$, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

When R_1 in compounds IA and IB is hydrogen, then compounds IA and IB are tautomeric forms of the same compound.

As used herein:

the term "carboxyl group" refers to a group of formula $-\text{COOH}$;

the term "carboxyl ester group" refers to a group of formula $-\text{COOR}$, wherein R is a radical actually or notionally derived from the hydroxyl compound ROH; and

the term "carboxamide group" refers to a group of formula $-\text{CONR}_a\text{R}_b$, wherein $-\text{NR}_a\text{R}_b$ is a primary or secondary (including cyclic) amino group actually or notionally derived from ammonia or the amine HNR_aR_b .

As used herein, the term " $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl" refers to a straight or branched chain alkyl radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, including for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl and n-hexyl.

As used herein, the term " $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl" refers to a straight or branched chain alkenyl radical having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and containing at least one double bond of E or Z configuration, including for example, ethenyl and allyl.

As used herein, the term " $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl" refers to a straight or branched chain alkenyl radical having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and containing at least one triple bond, including for example, ethynyl and prop-2-ynyl.

As used herein the term "cycloalkyl" refers to a saturated carbocyclic radical having from 3-8 carbon atoms and includes, for example, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and cyclooctyl.

As used herein the term "cycloalkenyl" refers to a carbocyclic radical having from 3-8 carbon atoms containing at least one double bond, and includes, for example, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptenyl and cyclooctenyl.

As used herein the term "aryl" refers to a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic carbocyclic aromatic radical. Illustrative of such radicals are phenyl, biphenyl and naphthyl.

As used herein the term "carbocyclic" refers to a cyclic ring or ring system whose ring atoms are all carbon, and includes monocyclic aryl, cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl radicals.

As used herein the term "heteroaryl" refers to a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic aromatic radical containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N and O. Illustrative of such radicals are thienyl, benzthienyl, furyl, benzfuryl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiazolyl, benzthiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, benztriazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolyl and indazolyl.

As used herein the unqualified term "heterocyclyl" or "heterocyclic" includes "heteroaryl" as defined above, and in particular means a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic aromatic or non-aromatic radical containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N and O, and to groups consisting of a monocyclic aromatic or non-aromatic radical containing one or more such heteroatoms which is covalently linked to another such radical or to a monocyclic carbocyclic radical. Illustrative of such radicals are pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl, piperidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrimidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, indolyl, morpholinyl, benzfuranyl, pyranyl, isoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, methylenedioxyphenyl, ethylenedioxyphenyl, maleimido and succinimido groups.

Unless otherwise specified in the context in which it occurs, the term "substituted" as applied to any moiety herein means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which independently may be, for example, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo (including fluoro and chloro), trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile (-CN), oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂, -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂,

-CONHR^A, -SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NH₂SO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, or -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

As used herein the term "salt" includes base addition, acid addition and quaternary salts. Compounds of the invention which are acidic can form salts, including pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salts, with bases such as alkali metal hydroxides, e.g. sodium and potassium hydroxides; alkaline earth metal hydroxides e.g. calcium, barium and magnesium hydroxides; with organic bases e.g. N-ethyl piperidine, dibenzylamine and the like. Those compounds (I) which are basic can form salts, including pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salts with inorganic acids, e.g. with hydrohalic acids such as hydrochloric or hydrobromic acids, sulphuric acid, nitric acid or phosphoric acid and the like, and with organic acids e.g. with acetic, tartaric, succinic, fumaric, maleic, malic, salicylic, citric, methanesulphonic and p-toluene sulphonic acids and the like.

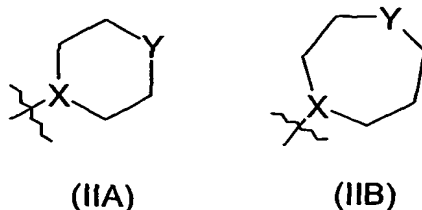
Some compounds of the invention contain one or more actual or potential chiral centres because of the presence of asymmetric carbon atoms. The presence of several asymmetric carbon atoms gives rise to a number of diastereoisomers with R or S stereochemistry at each chiral centre. The invention includes all such diastereoisomers and mixtures thereof.

In the compounds of the invention:

Ar is preferably a 2-hydroxyphenyl group, more preferably a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group, which is optionally further substituted, for example in the 5-position. Optional substituents include for example, chloro or bromo, optionally substituted phenyl or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and phenylethyl which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof.

R_1 and R_2 may be, for example, hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, *n*- or iso-propyl, or hydroxyethyl. Hydrogen is presently preferred in the case of R_1 , and hydrogen or methyl is presently preferred in the case of R_2 ;

Ring A may be, for example, a ring of formula (IIA) or (IIB):



wherein X represents CH or N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH, wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ where

Alk^1 , Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

m , n , p , r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-NR^ASO_2-$ or $-NR^A-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical.

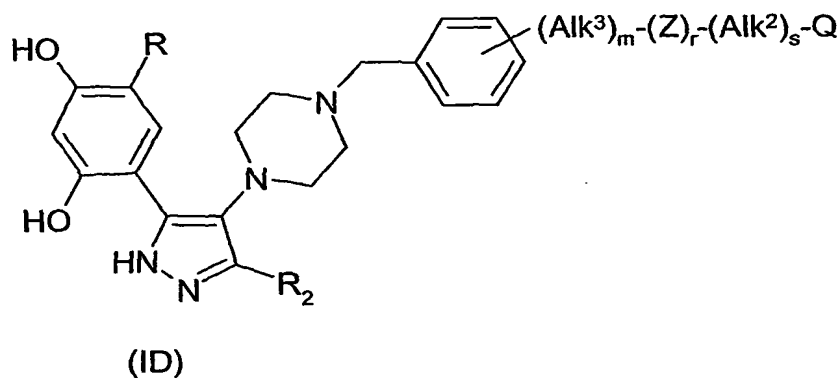
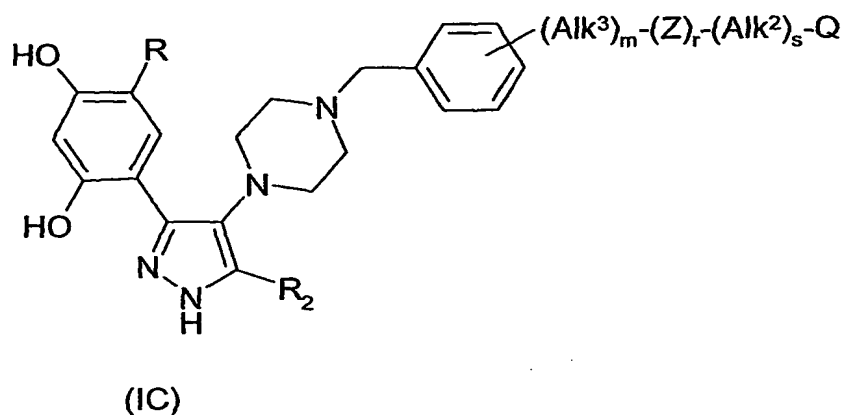
When the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA), X is preferably N and Y is NH or CH, and more preferably X is N, and Y is $-NR^A-$ wherein R^A is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)-Q$, wherein Alk^1 is a C_1 - C_3 alkylene radical. For example in such cases R^A may be an optionally substituted benzyl group and Q may be optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl.

Alternatively, when the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA), X may be and Y may be $-NR^A-$ wherein R^A is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-$

$(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$. In one of many such cases, p is 1 and m are each 1, and Cyc is a phenylene radical.

In cases when the optionally substituted ring A is of formula (IIA), X is N and Y is $-NR^A$ - specific examples of substituents R^A are to be found in compounds of the Examples herein.

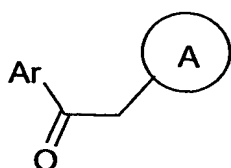
A presently preferred class of compounds of the invention consists of those of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salts, N-oxides, hydrates or solvates thereof:



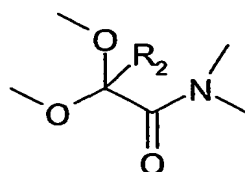
wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R_2 , m , r , s , Alk^3 , Z and Alk^2 are as defined above. In such compounds R_2 may be hydrogen, R may be, for example chloro, bromo, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and n may be is 0, r may be 1, and Z may be $-C(=O)NH-$.

Specific compounds of the invention include those of the Examples herein

Compounds of the invention may be prepared by methods analogous to those used in the Examples herein, and in general are accessible by reaction of a compound of formula (IIA) with a compound of formula (IIB)

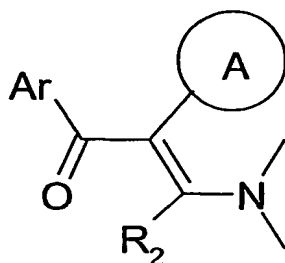


(IIA)



(IIB)

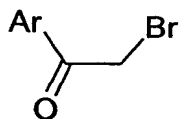
to form an intermediate compound of formula (IIC)



(IIC)

which is then reacted with the hydrazine H_2N-NHR_1 to form a mixture of the two pyrazole compounds (1A) and (1B), which may then be then separated. Of course it may be desirable to protect any potentially reactive groups in Ar, ring A and the substituents R_1 and R_2 during the above reactions and to remove the protecting groups subsequently.

Compounds of formula (IIA) may be prepared by nucleophilic displacement of bromine from a compound of formula (III) by an anion of ring A:



(III)

Some compounds of the invention are accessible by chemical modification of other compounds of the invention made by the above general method.

The compounds of the invention are inhibitors of HSP90 and are thus useful in the treatment of diseases which are responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity such as cancers; viral diseases such as Hepatitis C (HCV) (Waxman, 2002); Immunosuppression such as in transplantation (Bijlmakers, 2000 and Yorgin, 2000); Anti-inflammatory diseases (Bucci, 2000) such as Rheumatoid arthritis, Asthma, MS, Type I Diabetes, Lupus, Psoriasis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease; Cystic fibrosis (Fuller, 2000); Angiogenesis-related diseases (Hur, 2002 and Kurebayashi, 2001): diabetic retinopathy, haemangiomas, psoriasis, endometriosis and tumour angiogenesis. Also an Hsp90 inhibitor of the invention may protect normal cells against chemotherapy-induced toxicity and be useful in diseases where failure to undergo apoptosis is an underlying factor. Such an Hsp90 inhibitor may also be useful in diseases where the induction of a cell stress or heat shock protein response could be beneficial, for example, protection from hypoxia-ischemic injury due to elevation of Hsp70 in the heart (Hutter, 1996 and Trost, 1998) and brain (Plumier, 1997 and Rajder, 2000). An Hsp90 inhibitor could also be useful in diseases where protein misfolding or aggregation is a major causal factor, for example, scrapie/CJD, Huntingdon's and Alzheimer's (Sittler, 2001; Trazelt, 1995 and Winklhofer, 2001).

Accordingly, the invention also provides:

- (i) a method of treatment of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity in mammals, in particular in humans, which method comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) above; and
- (ii) a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) above, for use in human or veterinary medicine, particularly in the treatment of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity; and

(iii) the use of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) above in the preparation of an agent for the management (by which is meant treatment or prophylaxis) of diseases or conditions responsive to inhibition of HSP90 activity.

It will be understood that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination and the causative mechanism and severity of the particular disease undergoing therapy. In general, a suitable dose for orally administrable formulations will usually be in the range of 0.1 to 3000 mg once, twice or three times per day, or the equivalent daily amount administered by infusion or other routes. However, optimum dose levels and frequency of dosing will be determined by clinical trials as is conventional in the art.

The compounds with which the invention is concerned may be prepared for administration by any route consistent with their pharmacokinetic properties. The orally administrable compositions may be in the form of tablets, capsules, powders, granules, lozenges, liquid or gel preparations, such as oral, topical, or sterile parenteral solutions or suspensions. Tablets and capsules for oral administration may be in unit dose presentation form, and may contain conventional excipients such as binding agents, for example syrup, acacia, gelatin, sorbitol, tragacanth, or polyvinyl-pyrrolidone; fillers for example lactose, sugar, maize-starch, calcium phosphate, sorbitol or glycine; tableting lubricant, for example magnesium stearate, talc, polyethylene glycol or silica; disintegrants for example potato starch, or acceptable wetting agents such as sodium lauryl sulphate. The tablets may be coated according to methods well known in normal pharmaceutical practice. Oral liquid preparations may be in the form of, for example, aqueous or oily suspensions, solutions, emulsions, syrups or elixirs, or may be presented as a dry product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may contain conventional additives such as suspending agents, for example sorbitol, syrup, methyl cellulose, glucose syrup, gelatin hydrogenated edible fats; emulsifying agents, for example lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia;

non-aqueous vehicles (which may include edible oils), for example almond oil, fractionated coconut oil, oily esters such as glycerine, propylene glycol, or ethyl alcohol; preservatives, for example methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoate or sorbic acid, and if desired conventional flavouring or colouring agents.

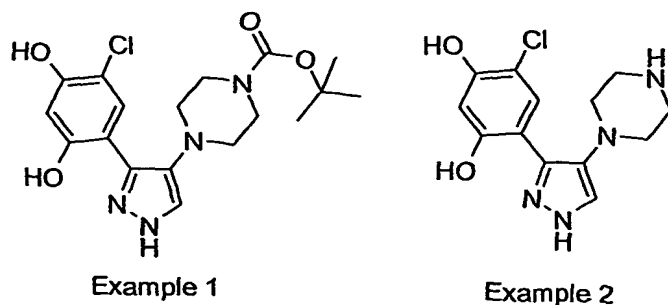
For topical application to the skin, the drug may be made up into a cream, lotion or ointment. Cream or ointment formulations which may be used for the drug are conventional formulations well known in the art, for example as described in standard textbooks of pharmaceuticals such as the British Pharmacopoeia.

The active ingredient may also be administered parenterally in a sterile medium. Depending on the vehicle and concentration used, the drug can either be suspended or dissolved in the vehicle. Advantageously, adjuvants such as a local anaesthetic, preservative and buffering agents can be dissolved in the vehicle.

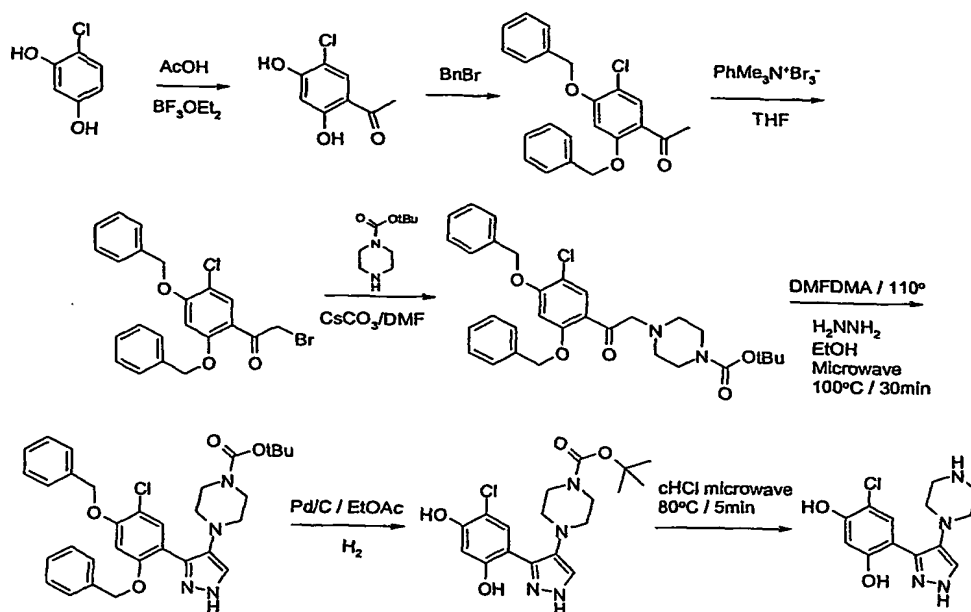
The following examples illustrate the preparation and activities of specific compounds of the invention.

Example 1: 4-[3-(5-Chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester, and

Example 2: 4-Chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol

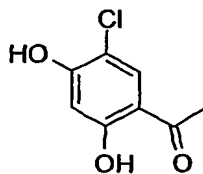


Scheme 1: Synthesis of piperazinopyrazoles.



Step 1

1-(5-Chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-ethanone

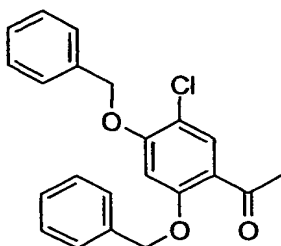


Acetic acid (17.5mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of 4-chlororesorcinol (42.5g, 0.293mmol) in boron trifluoride etherate (200mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was heated at 90°C for 3.5 hours and then allowed to cool to room temperature. A solid had formed after around 1 hour of cooling. The mixture was poured into 700mL of a 10% w/v aqueous sodium acetate solution. This mixture was stirred vigorously for 2.5 hours. A light brown solid had formed which was filtered, washed with

water and air-dried overnight to afford 1-(5-chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-ethanone (31.6g, 58%). LCMS: $[M-H]^+$ 185.

Step 2

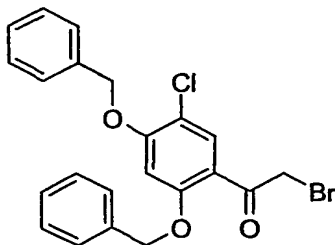
1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-ethanone



Benzyl bromide (30mL) was added to a mixture of 1-(5-chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-ethanone (20g, 0.107moles) and potassium carbonate (37g, 2.5 equiv) in acetonitrile (350mL). The mixture was heated at reflux for 6 hours then allowed to cool and stirred overnight. The mixture was filtered and the solids were washed with dichloromethane (3 x 100mL). The combined organic extracts were evaporated in vacuo to leave a pale yellow solid which was triturated with a mixture of hexane (350mL) / ethyl acetate (15mL) and filtered to give an off-white solid, 1-(2,4-bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-ethanone (35.4g, 90%). 1H NMR (400MHz) consistent with structure.

Step 3

1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone



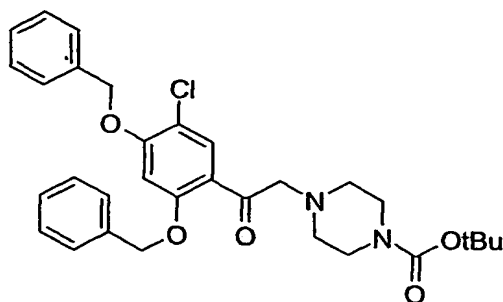
Phenyltrimethylammonium tribromide (7.5g, 0.02mol) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-ethanone (7.09g, 0.019mol) in tetrahydrofuran (100ml) and the mixture was stirred for 2h. The mixture was partitioned between water (100ml) and diethyl ether (2x50ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated to give a beige solid. Crystallisation from toluene

(100ml) gave 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone as a white solid (4.5g)

LC retention time 2.97 minutes, no ion (Run time 3.75min)

Step 4

4-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

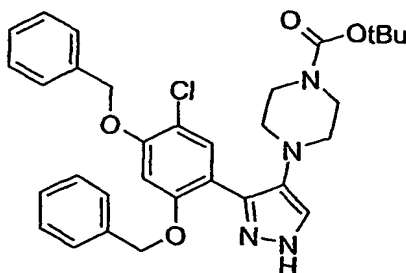


Cesium carbonate (2.95g, 9mmol) was added in three portions to a stirred solution of 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone (4.4g, 9mmol) and piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.74g, 9mmol) in dimethylformamide (20ml). The suspension was stirred for 2h then partitioned between water (200ml) and ethyl acetate (3x50ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (100ml), dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated to give 4-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester as a yellow oil (4g)

LC retention time 2.53 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 551.5 (Run time 3.75min)

Step 5

4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester



A solution of 4-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (2g, 3.6mmol) in dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (4ml) was heated at reflux for 3h. A further quantity of dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (15ml) was added, and the mixture was heated at reflux for 4h. The mixture was split into 7 microwave vessels. Ethanol (1ml) and hydrazine hydrate (1ml) was added to each microwave vessel, and each was heated at 120°C for 5 minutes. The contents of all the vessels were combined and partitioned between water (50ml) and dichloromethane (3x30ml). The combined organic phases were concentrated and purified on a bond elute cartridge (20g) eluting with hexane, followed by hexane:ether; 4:1 then 1:1 then 1:2 then 1:4 gave 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester as a white solid (620mg)

LC retention time 2.98 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 575.5 (Run time 3.75min)

Step 6

4-[3-(5-Chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (Example 1)

A solution of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (230mg, 0.4mmol) in ethyl acetate (15ml) was hydrogenated over 10% palladium on carbon for 1.5h. The suspension was filtered through celite, washing with dichloromethane:ethanol (1:1). The filtrate was concentrated to leave 4-[3-(5-chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (Example 1) as a white solid (72mg)

LC retention time 2.24 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 395.3 (Run time 3.75min)

Step 7

4-Chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol (Example 2)

Method A

A mixture of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (25mg, 0.06mmol) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (1ml) was heated in the microwave at 80°C for 5min. The mixture was evaporated to dryness, azeotroping with toluene to give 4-chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol (10mg) (Example 2)

LC retention time 1.37 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 295.2 (Run time 3.75min)

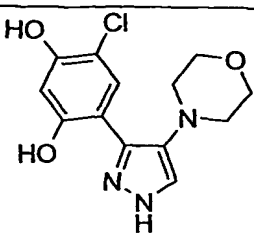
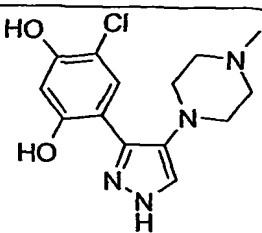
Method B

Boron trichloride (1M solution in dichloromethane; 8ml, 8mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (1.5g, 2.6mmol) in dichloromethane (15ml) at 0°C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h, then basified with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The suspension was concentrated *in vacuo*, azeotroping with toluene until the residue was dry. The residue was triturated with dichloromethane:ethanol (1:1; 15ml) and filtered. The filtrate was purified on a bond elute cartridge (20g) eluting with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonia, 50:8:1 then 20:8:1 to give 4-chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol as a pale yellow solid (400mg) (Example 2)

LC retention time 1.37 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 295.2 (Run time 3.75min)

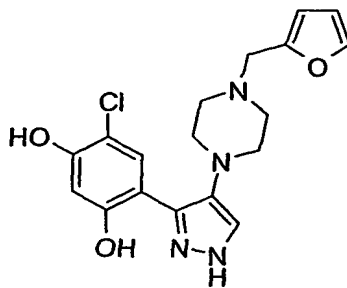
The compound of Example 1 had activity 'B' in the ATPase assay described below, and the compound of Example 2 had activity 'A'

The compounds in the following table were prepared as described in scheme 1 using the corresponding amine, and were purified using HPLC. The entries in the column "Hsp90 IC50" are the results obtained in the ATPase assay described below.

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
3		296	B
4		309	A

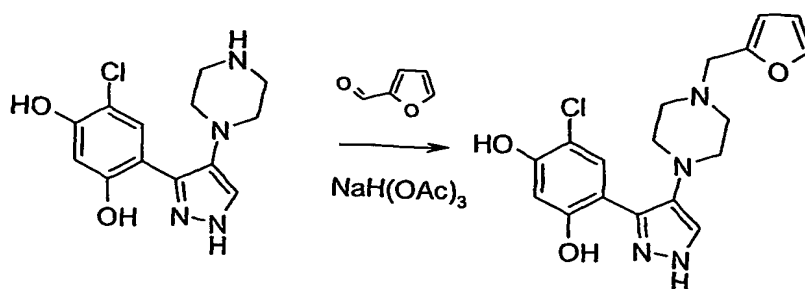
Example 5

4-Chloro-6-[4-(4-furan-2-ylmethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-benzene-1,3-diol



this compound was made by the route summarised in Scheme 2:

Scheme 2: Reductive aminations of piperazines.

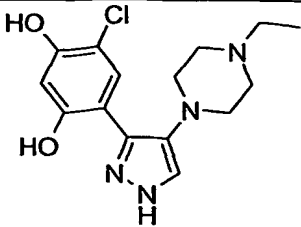
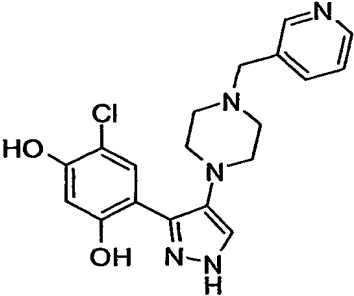


Sodium triacetoxyborohydride (150mg, 0.7mmol) was added in one portion to a mixture of 4-chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol (43mg, 0.146mmol), furfuraldehyde (0.025ml, 0.3mmol), acetic acid (0.5ml) and dichloromethane (1ml). Stirring under nitrogen was continued for 3h, and the reaction mixture was partitioned between water (10ml) and dichloromethane (3x10ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated and purified on a bond elute cartridge (5g) eluting with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonia (100:8:1) gave 4-chloro-6-[4-(4-furan-2-ylmethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-benzene-1,3-diol as a white solid (10mg).

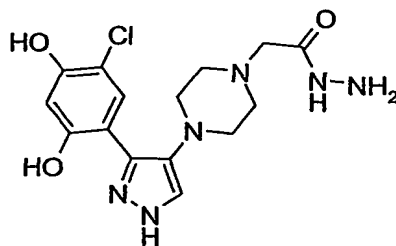
LC retention time 1.68 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 375.3 (Run time 3.75min)

The compound of Example 5 had activity 'B' in the ATPase assay described below.

The compounds of Examples 6 and 7 were also prepared according to Scheme 2 using acetaldehyde and 3-pyridyl aldehyde, respectively. The entries in the column "Hsp90 IC₅₀" are the results obtained in the ATPase assay described below.

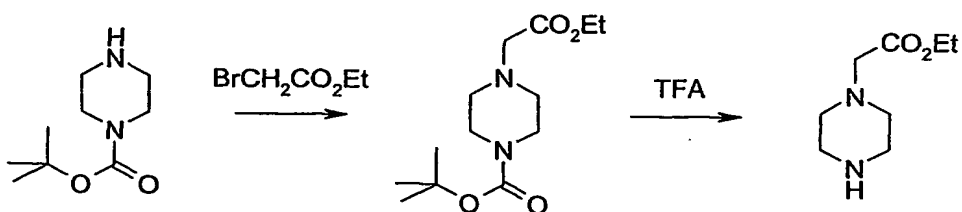
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
6		323	A
7		386	A

Example 8

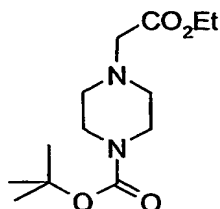


The compound of Example 8 was prepared as described in the following 2 schemes:

Scheme 3: Synthesis of piperazine acetic acid ethyl ester.

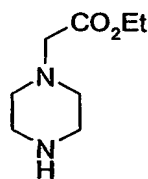


Step 1

4-Ethoxycarbonylmethyl-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

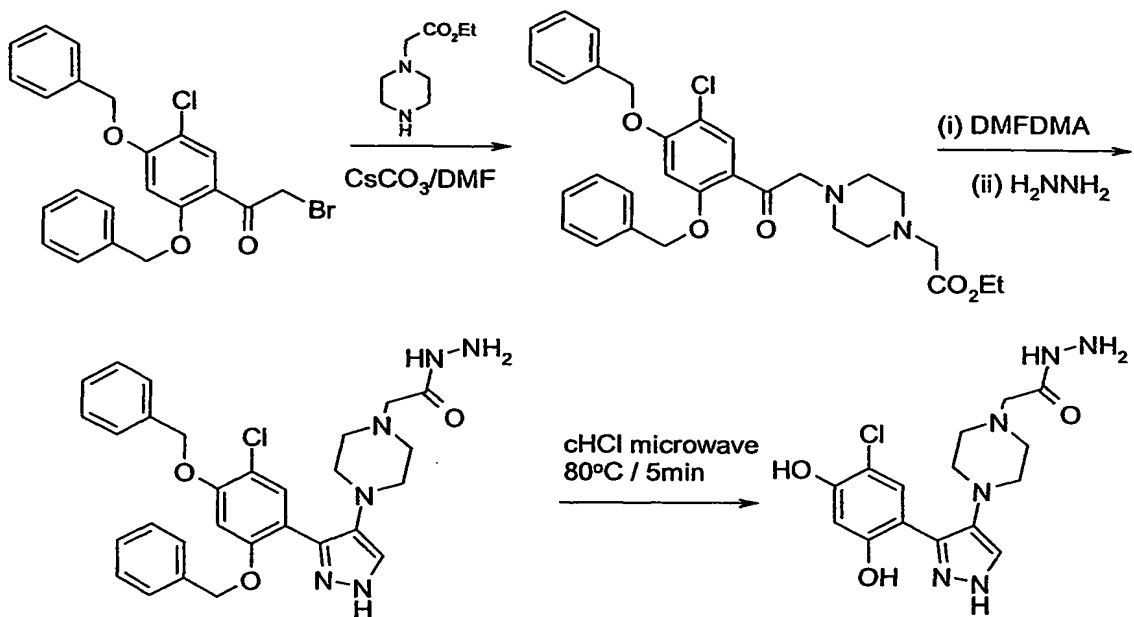
Piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (2.62g, 14mmol), cesium carbonate (5g, 15mmol) and ethyl bromoacetate (1.56ml, 14mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 1h. The mixture was partitioned between water (200ml) and diethyl ether (2x100ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated to give a yellow oil which crystallised to give 4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester as a pale yellow solid (2.6g)

^1H N.M.R (CDCl_3) δ = 1.24 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz), 1.43 (9H, s), 2.49 (4H, t, J = 5Hz), 3.20 (2H, s), 3.44 (4H, t, J = 4.8Hz), 4.16 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz).

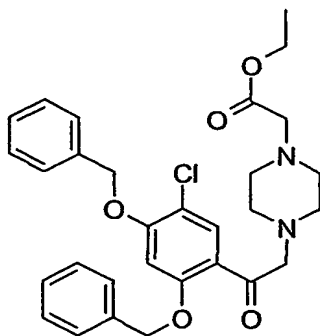
Step 2**Piperazin-1-yl-acetic acid ethyl ester**

A solution of 4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester in 90% trifluoroacetic acid (5ml) was stirred for 3h. The mixture was basified with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and concentrated. The residue was triturated with ethylacetate (30ml) and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to leave piperazin-1-yl-acetic acid ethyl ester as a yellow oil (ca 1.5g)

^1H N.M.R (CDCl_3) δ = 1.18 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz), 2.40 (4H, t, J = 4.1Hz), 2.70 (4H, t, J = 4.5Hz), 3.13 (2H, s), 3.45 (1H, br s), 4.01 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz)

Scheme 4: Synthesis of acyl hydrazide**Step 3**

{4-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester



Prepared as described in Scheme 1 using piperazin-1-yl-acetic acid ethyl ester

LC retention time 2.32 minutes $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 537.5

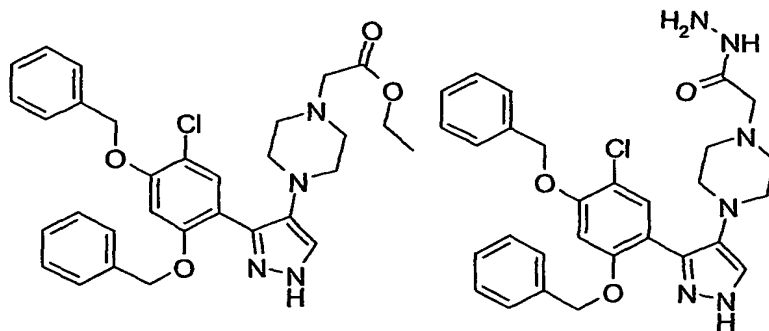
(Run time 3.75min)

Step 4

{4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester

and

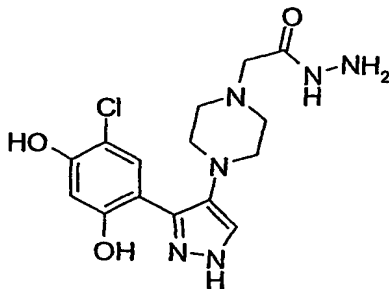
{4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid hydrazide



A solution of {4-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester (1.5g, 2.80mmol) in dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (4ml) was heated at 140°C in the microwave for 30min. The solution was split into two portions and each was mixed with hydrazine hydrate (0.1ml) and ethanol (2ml) and heated in the microwave at 100°C for 5min. The combined mixture was concentrated and purified on a bond elute cartridge to give {4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester (230mg) and {4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid hydrazide (150mg).

Step 5

{4-[3-(5-Chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid hydrazide (Example 8)



Prepared from {4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-acetic acid hydrazide, analogously to Example 2, Step 7, Method A

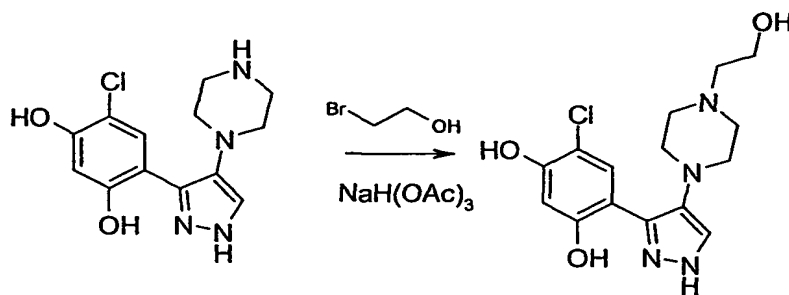
LC retention time 1.40 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 367.3 (Run time 3.75min)

The compound of Example 8 had activity 'B' in the ATPase assay.

Example 9

4-Chloro-6-{4-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-benzene-1,3-diol

Scheme 5: Alkylation of piperazines:

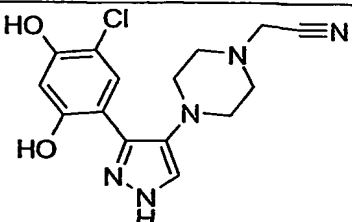
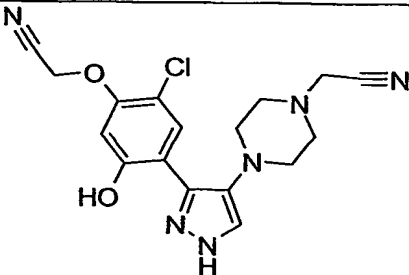
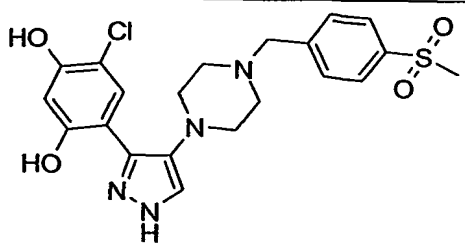
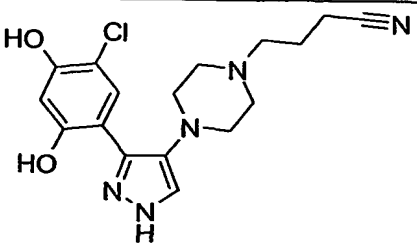


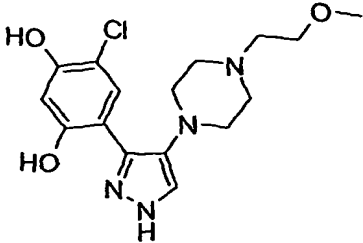
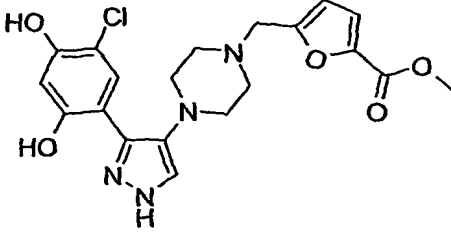
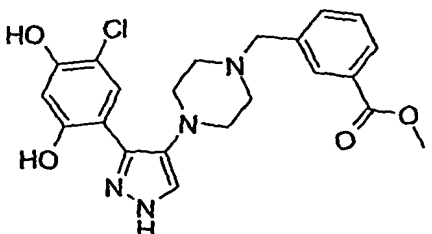
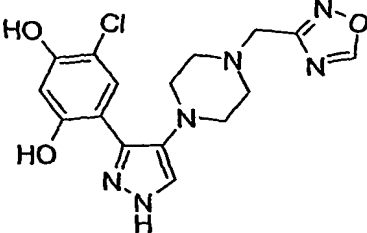
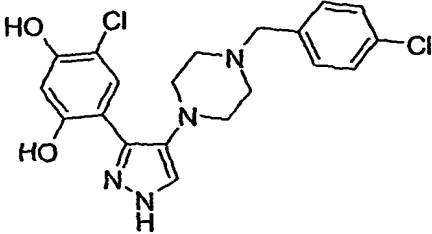
A mixture of 4-chloro-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol (43mg, 0.146mmol), cesium carbonate (48mg, 0.146mmol), 2-bromoethanol (0.025ml, 0.35mmol) and dimethylformamide (1ml) was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and applied to a bond elute cartridge (5g) with dichloromethane:methanol (49:1), then eluting with dichloromethane followed by dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonia (50:8:1 then 20:8:1) gave 4-chloro-6-{4-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-benzene-1,3-diol as a white solid (10mg)

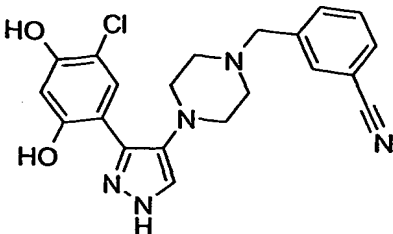
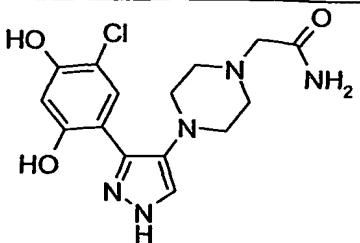
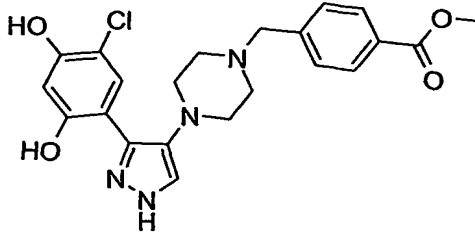
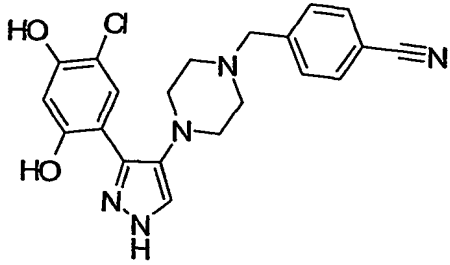
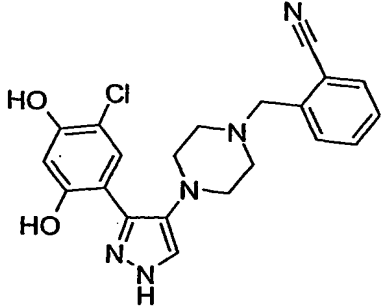
LC retention time 1.36 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 339.3 (Run time 3.75min)

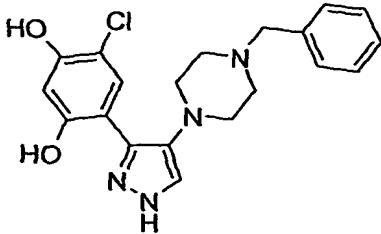
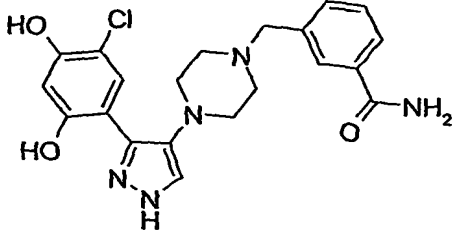
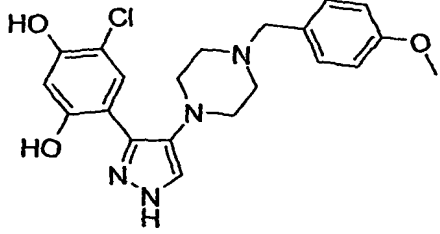
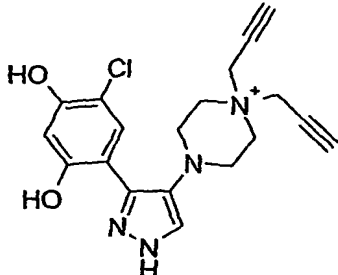
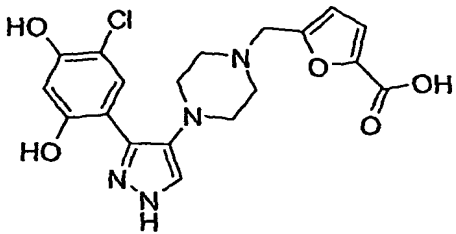
The compound of Example 9 had activity 'B' in the ATPase assay.

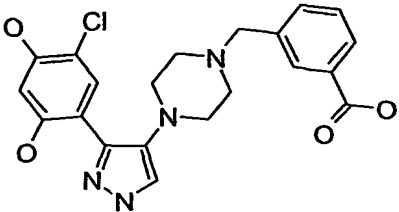
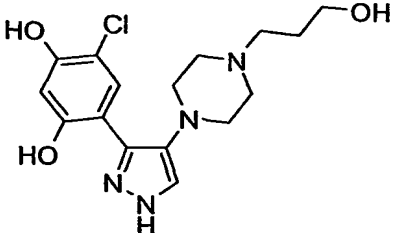
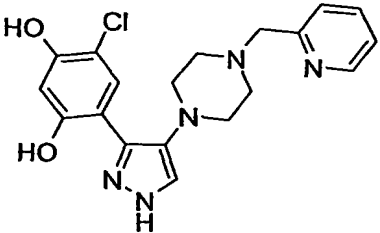
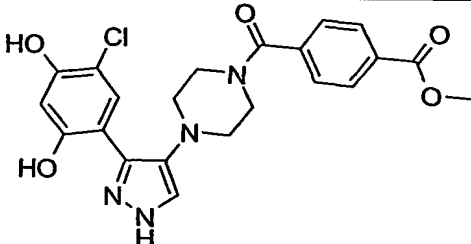
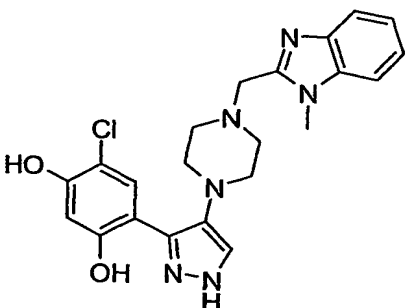
Examples 10 to 48 were prepared by the method summarised in Scheme 5, using the appropriate alkylating, acylating or sulfonylating agent. The entries in the column "Hsp90 IC50" are the results obtained in the ATPase assay or, where indicated by an asterisk, in the Fluorescence Polarisation (FP) assay described below:

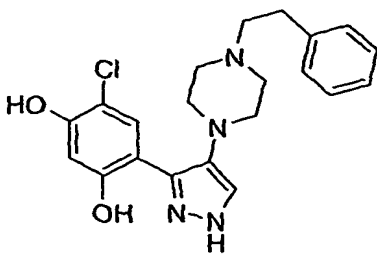
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
10		334	B
11		373	B
12		463	A
13		361	A

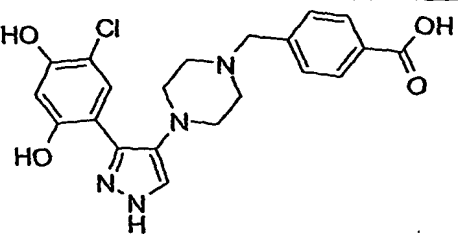
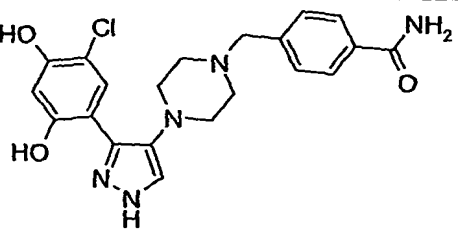
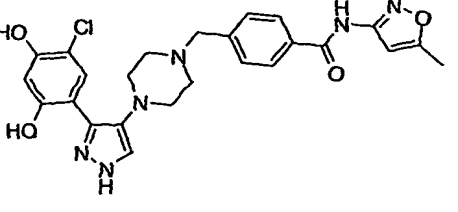
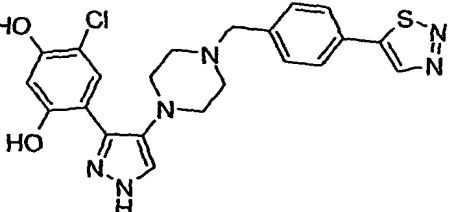
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
14		353	A
15		434	A
16		444	A
17		378	A
18		420	A

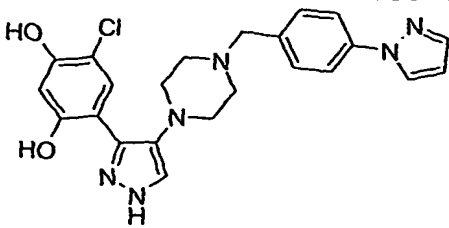
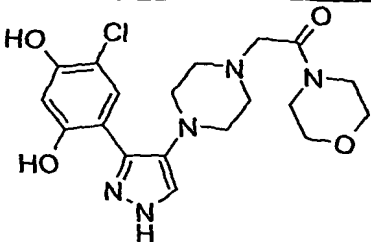
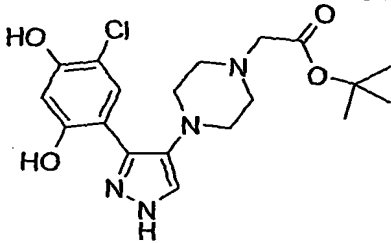
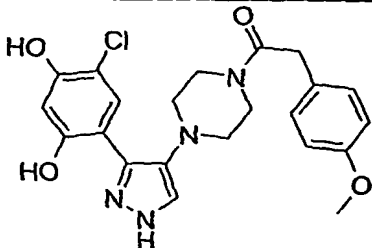
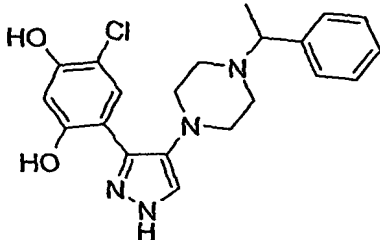
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
19		411	A
20		353	A
21		444	A
22		411	A
23		411	A

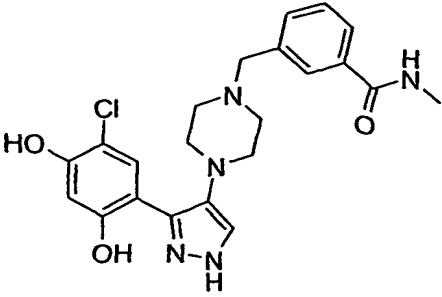
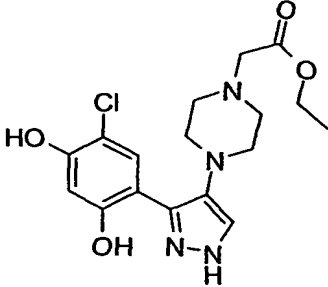
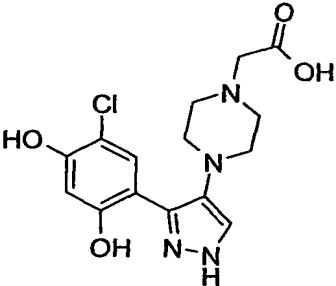
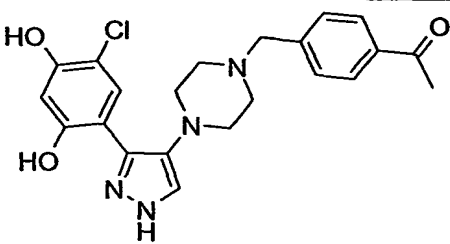
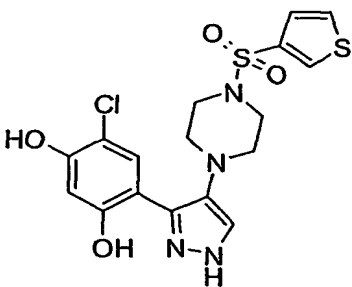
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
24		386	A
25		429	A
26		416	A
27		373	A
28		420	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
29		430	A
30		354	A
31		387	A
32		458	B
33		439	B

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
34		399	A

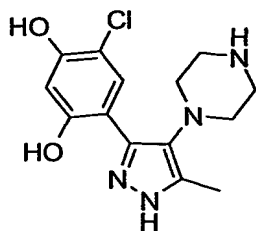
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
35		429	A
36		428	A
37		509	A
38		469	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
39		451	A
40		422	A
41		409	B
42		442	B*
43		399	A

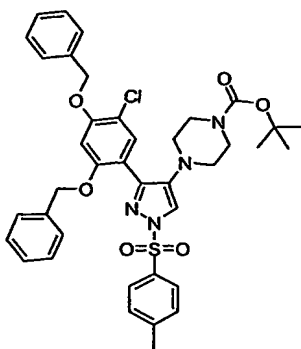
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
44		442	A*
45		381	A*
46		353	A*
47		427	A*
48		441	A*

* tested in FP assay

Example 49

4-Chloro-6-(5-methyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol

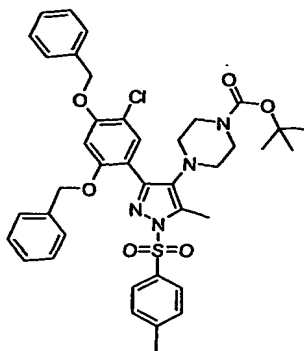
Step 1

4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

Para toluene sulphonyl chloride (180mg, .95mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (500mg, 0.9mmol) in dichloromethane (10ml) and pyridine (0.9mmol). Stirring was continued for 18h, then the solution was partitioned between water (20ml) and ethyl acetate (2x20ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate, and concentrated in vacuo to leave a yellow oil. Purification on silica (20g) eluting with hexane, followed by hexane:diethyl ether, 1:1, then diethyl ether gave 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (490mg, 77%)

LC retention time 3.22 minutes $[M]^+$ 729.6 (Run time 3.75mins)

Step 2

4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

N-Butyl lithium (1.6M in hexane; 0.25ml, 0.4mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred, cooled (-78°C) solution of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (240mg, 0.33mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2ml), under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at -78°C for 10minutes, then methyl iodide (40µL; 0.64mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, then partitioned between water (20ml) and ethyl acetate (2x20ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate, then concentrated in vacuo, and purified on silica cartridge (200mg) eluting with hexane, then hexane:diethyl ether, 1:1, then diethyl ether gave 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (70mg; 29%)

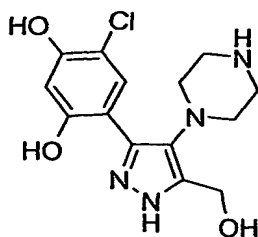
LC retention time 3.26 minutes [M]⁺ 743.6 (Run time 3.75mins)

The final product was obtained by the use of Method B of Example 1 and had activity 'A' in the Hsp90 FP assay.

Example 50

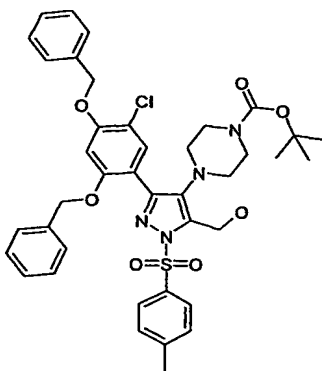
4-Chloro-6-(5-hydroxymethyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol

39



Step 1

4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-5-hydroxymethyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester



A solution of lithium aluminium hydride (1M in ether, 0.3ml, 0.3mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-5-isobutoxycarbonyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (90mg, 0.11mmol) [*prepared by use of the lithiation chemistry in the preceding example*] in anhydrous diethyl ether (2ml) at room temperature, under a nitrogen atmosphere. The suspension was stirred 2h then sodium hydroxide solution (1M, 3 drops) was added, followed by methanol (0.5ml). The mixture was partitioned between water (30ml) and ethyl acetate (2x20ml), and the combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate, then concentrated in vacuo to give 4-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-chloro-phenyl)-5-hydroxymethyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (58mg, 88%)
 LC retention time 2.87 minutes [M]⁺ 605.6 (Run time 3.75mins)

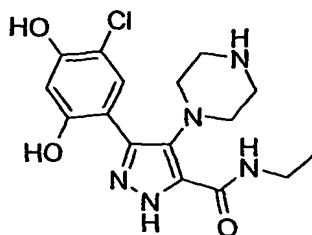
Step 2

The final product was obtained by the use of Method B of Example 1.

The compound had activity 'A' in the Hsp90 FP assay.

Example 51

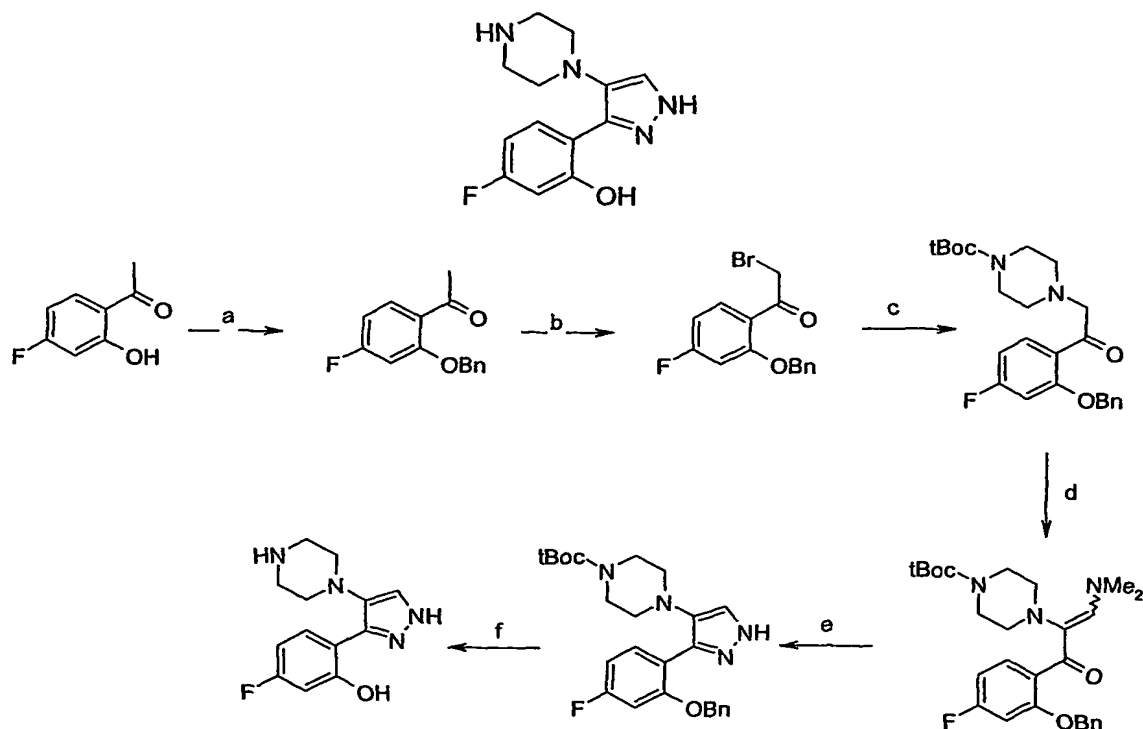
5-(5-Chloro-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-2H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethylamide



Prepared according to the lithiation chemistry in Examples 52 and 53, but quenching with ethyl isocyanate. The compound of this Example 54 had activity 'A' in the Hsp90 ATPase assay.

Example 52

3-(4-Fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole



Reagents and Conditions: a. BnBr, K₂CO₃, DMF, rt, 18h, 97%; b. PhNMe₃Br₃, THF, rt, 45 mins; c. ^tBoc-piperazine, K₂CO₃, DMF, 80% (2 steps); d. DMFDMA, μ -wave 200 °C, 15 min; e. NH₂NH₂·H₂O, EtOH, μ -wave, 120 °C, 30 min, 33% (2 steps); f. BCl₃, DCM, 30 %.

Step 1

2'-(Benzyloxy)-4'-fluoroacetophenone

Potassium carbonate (4.02 g, 29.10 mmol) was added to a solution of 4'-fluoro-2'-hydroxyacetophenone (2.0 mL, 2.56g, 16.60 mmol) in DMF (15 mL). Benzyl bromide (2.07 mL, 2.98 g, 17.50 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 minutes at room temperature, and the mixture stirred for 18 h. The mixture was poured into hydrochloric acid (1.0 M in H₂O; 200 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvents removed *in vacuo*. Pure 2'-(benzyloxy)-4'-fluoroacetophenone (3.94 g, 97%) was obtained as a white powder after trituration with hexane. *R*_f 0.44 (9 : 1 hexane : EtOAc); δ _H (CDCl₃) 7.82 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.6 and 7.0 Hz), 7.43 – 7.38 (5H, m), 6.75 – 6.69 (2H, m), 5.13 (2H, s), 2.56 (3H, d, *J* = 3.2 Hz); LCMS retention time 2.68 min, M+H⁺ 245.1.

Step 2

2'-(Benzyloxy)-2-bromo-4'-fluoroacetophenone

Phenyltrimethylammonium tribromide (1.55 g, 4.13 mmol) was added to a solution of 2'-(benzyloxy)-4'-fluoroacetophenone (1.01 g, 4.13 mmol) in THF (10 mL), and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 45 minutes, over which time the orange solution faded and a white precipitate formed. Tlc analysis (9:1 hexane : EtOAc) showed the reaction to be complete. The mixture was poured into water (20 mL) and extracted with ether (2 × 50 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvents removed *in vacuo* to give crude 2'-(benzyloxy)-2-bromo-4'-fluoroacetophenone as a colourless oil, which was used in the following step without purification. *R*_f 0.47 (9 : 1

hexane : EtOAc); δ_H (CDCl₃) 7.89 (1H, dd, J = 9.4 and 6.9 Hz), 7.45 – 7.40 (5H, m), 6.77 – 6.74 (2H, m), 5.15 (2H, s), 4.47 (2H, s); LCMS retention time 2.75 min, $M+H^+$ 323.3/325.3.

Step 3

2'-(Benzyloxy)-2-[4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-4'-fluoroacetophenone

1-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)piperazine (808 mg, 4.34 mmol) was added to a mixture of 2'-(benzyloxy)-2-bromo-4'-fluoroacetophenone (assumed 4.13 mmol) and potassium carbonate (856 mg, 6.20 mmol) in DMF, and stirred for 18 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, the residue taken up in ethyl acetate (150 mL) and washed with water (100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO₄) and the solvents removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography, eluting with 9:1 hexane : EtOAc followed by 1 : 1 hexane : EtOAc to give pure 2'-(benzyloxy)-2-[4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-4'-fluoroacetophenone (1.42 g, 80% over 2 steps) as a yellow oil; R_f 0.00 (9 : 1 hexane : EtOAc), 0.50 (1 : 1 hexane : EtOAc); δ_H (CDCl₃) 7.89 (1H, dd, J = 9.3 and 6.9 Hz), 7.48 – 7.44 (5H, m), 6.81 – 6.77 (2H, m), 5.17 (2H, s), 3.79 (2H, s), 3.51 – 3.47 (4H, m), 2.44 – 2.41 (4H, m), 1.50 (9H, s); LCMS retention time 2.10 min, $M+H^+$ 429.4.

Step 4

3-[4-Fluoro-2-(benzyloxy)phenyl]-4-[4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazole

A solution of 2'-(benzyloxy)-2-[4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-4'-fluoroacetophenone (270 mg, 0.63 mmol) in dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (1.5 mL) was heated in a sealed microwave tube at 200 °C for 15 minutes. A white precipitate formed. The mixture was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to give crude 4-[1-(2-benzyloxy-4-fluoro-benzoyl)-2-dimethylamino-vinyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester. Ethanol (2

mL) and hydrazine hydrate (2.0 mL) were added and the mixture heated in a sealed microwave tube at 120 °C for 30 minutes. The crude mixture was loaded onto a dry pre-packed silica cartridge and dried overnight. The product was eluted with 2 : 1 hexane : EtOAc to give 4-[3-(2-benzyloxy-4-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (95 mg, 33%) as a yellow gum; LCMS retention time 2.75 min, $M+H^+$ 453.4.

Step 5

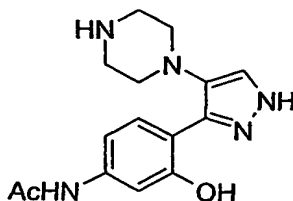
3-(4-Fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole

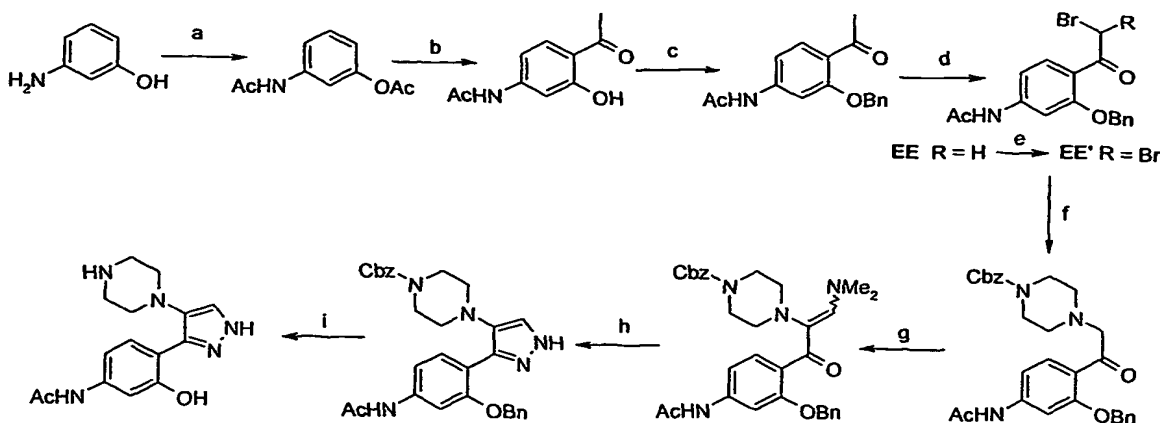
Boron trichloride (1.0 M in DCM; 0.829 mL, 0.829 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-[3-(2-benzyloxy-4-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (75 mg, 0.166 mmol) in DCM (7.5 mL). A brown precipitate formed. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour then poured into saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (50 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried ($MgSO_4$) and the solvents removed *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative HPLC to give 3-(4-fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole (13 mg, 30%) as an off-white solid; δ_H (MeOH- d_4) 7.96 (1H, br s), 7.72 (1H, s), 6.71 – 6.64 (2H, m), 3.36 – 3.33 (4H, m), 3.13 – 3.10 (4H, m), 2.65 (1H, s); LCMS retention time 1.46 min, $M+H^+$ 263.2.

The compound of this Example 52 had activity 'B' in the Hsp90 ATPase assay.

Example 53

3-[4-Acetamido-2-hydroxyphenyl]-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole





Reagents and Conditions: a. AcCl, pyr, DCM, 96%; b. AlCl₃, 180 °C, 73%; c. BnBr, Cs₂CO₃, DMF, 53%; d. PhNMe₃Br₃, THF, EE 95% or EE' 100%; e. (EtO)₂PH, Et₃N, THF, >100% (impure); f. Cbz-piperazine, DMF, K₂CO₃, 50%; g. DMFDMA, THF; h. add NH₂NH₂·xH₂O, MeOH, 98%; i. H₂, Pd/C, MeOH, 41%.

Step 1

3-Acetamidophenyl acetate

Pyridine (46.32 mL, 45.30 g, 572 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of 3-aminophenol (25.0 g, 229 mmol) in DCM (200 mL), and the mixture cooled to 0 °C. A solution of acetyl chloride (14.45 mL, 15.95 g, 203.21 mmol) in DCM (100 mL) was added dropwise (CAUTION: Exotherm) to the mixture from a pressure-equalising dropping funnel over 2.5 hours, and the mixture stirred for a further 1 hour at 0 °C. The mixture was poured into HCl (1.0 M in H₂O; 350 mL) and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with further DCM (150 mL), and the combined organic layers dried (MgSO₄) and the solvents removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was further dried for 18 h at 40 °C, 150 mbar to give 3-acetamidophenyl acetate (42.5g, 96%) as a white solid; δ_H (CDCl₃) 7.83 (1H, br s), 7.45 (1H, t, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.23 (1H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.14 – 7.11 (1H, m), 6.78 – 6.76 (1H, m), 2.28 (3H, s), 2.06 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 1.76 min, M+H⁺ 194.2.

Step 2

4'-Acetamido-2'-hydroxyacetophenone

3-Acetamidophenyl acetate (10.47 g, 54.19 mmol) was ground to a fine powder in a pestle and mortar, then mixed with AlCl_3 (14.45 g, 108.40 mmol) in a 250 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a bubbler attached to a nitrogen supply. The mixture was heated cautiously until melting (75 °C) and subsequent vigorous reaction (85 °C) had occurred (CAUTION: Vigorous exothermic reaction with evolution of gas. Note: The temperature at which these processes occurs shows some variation – the temperature indicated are the lowest observed, and the highest are approximately 30 °C higher for each process). The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the brown solid broken to a powder with a spatula. The mixture was then heated at 180 °C for 4.25 hours, and cooled to room temperature. The solid mass was broken up with a spatula, and ice-water (100 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously overnight and the pure product removed by filtration. The product was dried at reduced pressure (45 °C, 100 mbar) for 18 hours to give N-(4-acetyl-3-hydroxy-phenyl)-acetamide (7.66g, 73%) as an off-white powder; δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6) 12.32 (1H, s), 10.28 (1H, s), 7.83 (1H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, dd, $J = 8.8, 2.0$ Hz), 2.56 (3H, s), 2.07 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 1.87 min, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ 194.2.

Step 3

N-(4-Acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide

Benzyl bromide (4.84 mL, 6.97 g, 40.76 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 minutes to a mixture of N-(4-acetyl-3-hydroxy-phenyl)-acetamide (7.50 g, 38.82 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (25.30 g, 77.64 mmol) in DMF (175 mL) at room temperature. After stirring for 18 hours, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue stirred vigorously with water (200 mL) and DCM (200 mL) until dissolution was complete. The layers were separated, and the aqueous further extracted with DCM (2 × 200 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4) and the solvents removed *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in PhMe (150 mL) and evaporated to dryness, whereupon crystals started to form. The mixture was re-suspended in PhMe (100 mL) and refluxed for 1 hr with activated charcoal (5 g). The hot solution was filtered and allowed to cool. The product was collected by filtration to give N-(4-acetyl-3-benzyloxy-

phenyl)-acetamide (5.79 g, 53%) as colourless crystals; δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 7.83 (1H, m), 7.76 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.58 (1H, br s), 7.45 – 7.32 (6H, m), 6.74 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 1.9$ Hz), 5.15 (2H, s), 2.56 (3H, s), 2.19 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 2.33 min, $M+H^+$ 284.3.

Step 4

N-[3-Benzyloxy-4-(2,2-dibromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide

Phenyltrimethylammonium tribromide (102 mg, 0.272 mmol) was added to a solution of N-(4-acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide (35 mg, 0.124 mmol) in THF (3.5 mL), and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was partitioned between water (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL), the layers separated and the organic layer dried (MgSO_4). The solvents were removed *in vacuo* to give crude N-[3-benzyloxy-4-(2,2-dibromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide (54 mg, 100%) as a pale brown solid; δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 7.92 (1H, br s), 7.85 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.55 (1H, br s), 7.50 – 7.35 (5H, m), 7.09 (1H, s), 6.78 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 1.9$ Hz), 5.20 (2H, s), 2.21 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 2.65 min, $M+H^+$ 440.1/442.1/444.1. The mixture was used crude in the next step.

Step 5

N-[3-Benzyloxy-4-(2-bromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide

Method A

Phenyltrimethylammonium tribromide (241 mg, 0.641 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of N-(4-acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide (165 mg, 0.582 mmol) in THF (16 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was poured into water (50 mL) and extracted with ether (2×50 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and the solvents removed *in vacuo* to give crude N-[3-benzyloxy-4-(2-bromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide (200mg, 95%) as an off-white solid; δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 7.98 (1H, br s), 7.92 (1H, br s), 7.81 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.49 – 7.32 (5H, m), 6.82 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 1.9$ Hz), 5.16 (2H, s), 4.50 (2H, s), 2.20 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 2.52 min, $M+H^+$ 362.2/364.2. The crude material was contaminated with a small amount of starting material and the corresponding dibromo-compound, but was sufficiently pure to use in step 6.

Method B

A solution of diethylphosphite (12.6 μ L, 13.5 mg, 97.6 μ mol) and triethylamine (13.6 μ L, 9.9 mg, 97.6 μ mol) in THF (0.1 mL) was added to a stirred solution of N-[3-benzyloxy-4-(2,2-dibromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide (41 mg, 92.9 μ mol) in THF (1.5 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction stirred for 2 hours. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with water (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO_4) and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give N-[3-benzyloxy-4-(2-bromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide (40 mg, > 100%), which was seen by NMR to be contaminated with a diethylphosphite-derived contaminant. The material could be used successfully in the following steps without further purification. All analytical data was as reported above.

Step 6**4'-Acetamido-2'-benzyloxy-2-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]acetophenone**

1-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazine (117 μ L, 134 mg, 0.607 mmol) was added to a mixture of N-[3-benzyloxy-4-(2-bromo-acetyl)-phenyl]-acetamide (200 mg, 0.552 mmol) and potassium carbonate (115 mg, 0.828 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), and stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and taken up in brine (25 mL). The aqueous was extracted with DCM (3 \times 25 mL) and the combined organics dried (MgSO_4). The solvents were removed *in vacuo*, and the product was purified by preparative HPLC to give pure 4'-acetamido-2'-benzyloxy-2-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]acetophenone (114 mg, 41%, 50% rec.) as an off-white solid; δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 8.23 (1H, br s), 7.81 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 7.77 – 7.76 (1H, m), 7.53 – 7.51 (2H, m), 7.42 – 7.28 (8H, m), 7.08 (1H, dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz), 5.20 (2H, s), 5.12 (2H, s), 4.00 (2H, s), 3.59 – 3.48 (4H, m), 2.65 – 2.60 (4H, m), 2.14 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 2.07 min, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ 502.5, along with recovered N-(4-acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide (35 mg).

Step 7

3-[4-Acetamido-2-benzyloxyphenyl]-4-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazole

A solution of 4'-acetamido-2'-benzyloxy-2-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]acetophenone (68 mg, 135.6 μmol) and dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (90 μL , 81 mg, 677.9 μmol) in dry THF (0.5 mL) was sealed in a microwave tube and heated at 120 °C for 65 minutes. Further dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (90 μL , 81 mg, 677.9 μmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added and the tube heated again for 40 minutes at 120 °C.

To the resulting solution of crude 4-[1-(4-acetylamino-2-benzyloxy-benzoyl)-2-dimethylamino-vinyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester was added hydrazine hydrate (0.75 mL) and MeOH (0.75 mL) in order to make the mixture monophasic, and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo*, and the residue poured into 50% saturated brine (100 mL). The product was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 100 mL), the combined organics dried (MgSO_4) and the solvents removed *in vacuo* to give crude 3-[4-acetamido-2-benzyloxyphenyl]-4-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazole (70 mg, 98%) as a yellow gum; LCMS retention time 2.48 min, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ 526.5.

Step 8**3-[4-Acetamido-2-hydroxyphenyl]-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole**

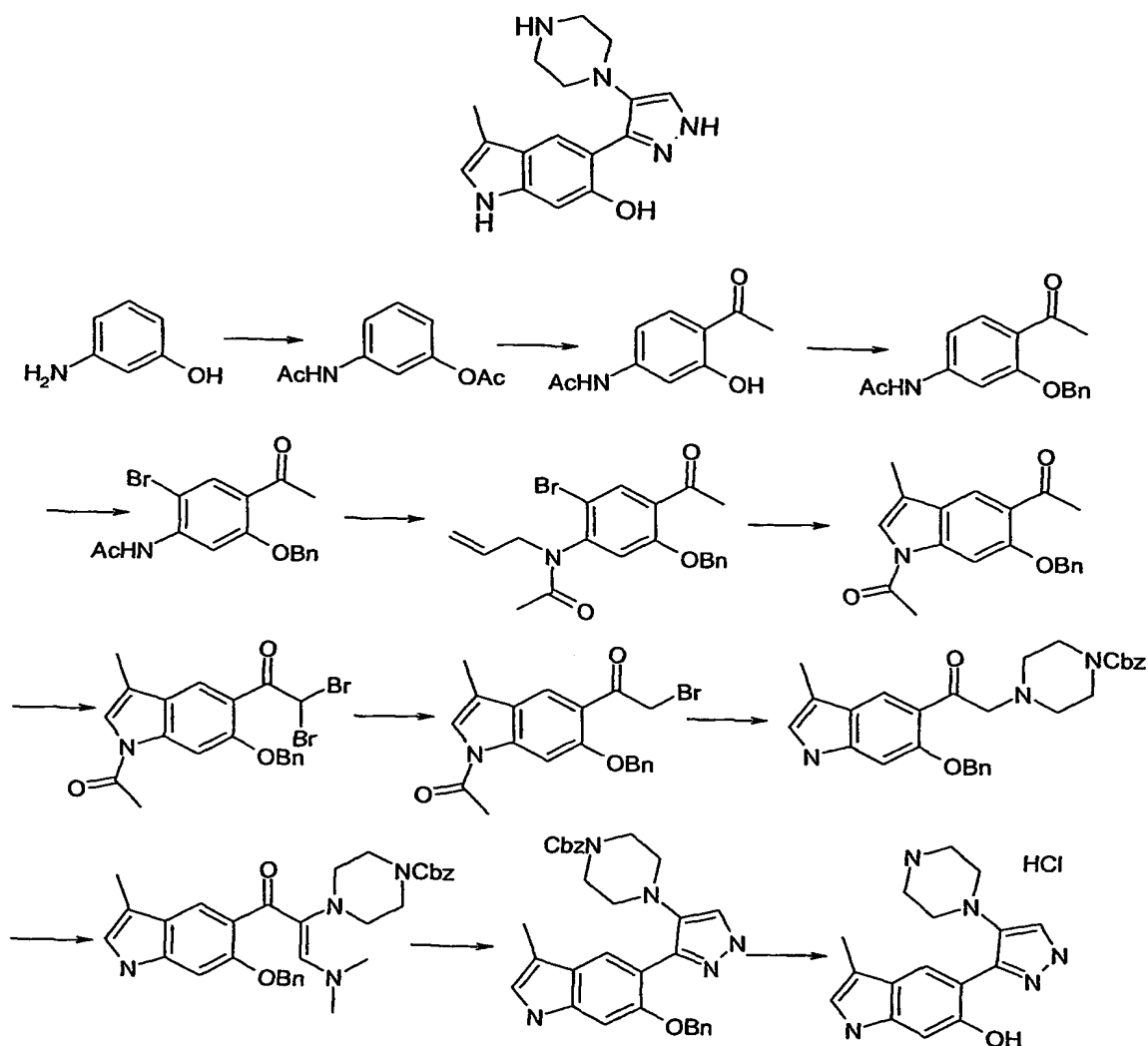
A solution of 3-[4-acetamido-2-benzyloxyphenyl]-4-[4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazole (70 mg, 133.2 μmol) in MeOH (7 mL) was degassed (3 \times vacuum/nitrogen) and palladium (10% on carbon; 10 mg, cat.) added. The reaction mixture was again degassed (3 \times vacuum/nitrogen) and the atmosphere replaced with one of hydrogen (3 \times vacuum/hydrogen). The mixture was shaken at room temperature for 18 hours. The catalyst was removed by filtration through a small pad of celite and washed with further MeOH (15 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give crude product, which was purified by preparative HPLC to give 3-[4-acetamido-2-hydroxyphenyl]-4-(piperazin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole (16.3 mg, 41%) as a white solid; δ_{H} ($\text{MeOH}-d_4$) 8.47 (1H, s), 7.80 (1H, br s), 7.68 (1H, s), 7.26

(1H, s), 7.11 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 2.1$ Hz), 3.34 – 3.29 (4H, m), 3.11 – 3.07 (4H, m), 2.12 (3H, s); LCMS retention time 1.26 min, $M+H^+$ 302.3.

The compound of this Example 53 had activity 'B' in the Hsp90 FP binding assay.

Example 54

3-Methyl-5-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-6-ol



Step 1

N-(4-Acetyl-3-hydroxy-phenyl)-acetamide

Acetic acid 3-acetyl-phenyl ester (5.0 g, 25.9 mmol) was ground to a fine powder and then combined with $AlCl_3$ (6.9 g, 52.3 mmol) in a round

bottomed flask. After flushing with nitrogen, the flask was heated to 95 °C and held at this temperature until the reaction had finished fuming. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature and the brown solid crushed to a powder. The reaction was then reheated to 180 °C. After 4 hours, the reaction was cooled to room temperature and crushed to form a powder. Ice water (100 ml) was added and the reaction stirred overnight. The product was filtered, washed with water and dried to afford a brown solid (2.57 g, 51.4 %). LC/MS: RT = 1.864 min. 194 (MH⁺).

Step 2

N-(4-Acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide

N-(4-Acetyl-3-hydroxy-phenyl)-acetamide (2.57 g, 13.3 mmol) was suspended in DMF (60 ml), followed by the sequential addition of Cs₂CO₃ (8.70 g, 26.7 mmol) and benzyl bromide (1.7 ml, 14 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the oily residue stirred in DCM/H₂O (1:1). The organics were washed with water, dried (Na₂SO₄) and purified by column chromatography in a gradient of hexane to 1:1 hexane/EtOAc to afford the benzyl ether as a cream solid (1.25 g, 33 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.307 min. 284 (MH⁺).

Step 3

N-(4-Acetyl-5-benzyloxy-2-bromo-phenyl)-acetamide

N-Bromosuccinimide (0.756 g, 4.27 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of N-(4-acetyl-3-benzyloxy-phenyl)-acetamide (1.2 g, 4.24 mmol) in DMF (24 ml) and the reaction stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM, washed with water and dried over MgSO₄ to afford a white solid (1.03 g, 67 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.609 min. 362/364 (MH⁺).

Step 4

N-(4-Acetyl-5-benzyloxy-2-bromo-phenyl)-N-allyl-acetamide

A solution of N-(4-acetyl-5-benzyloxy-2-bromo-phenyl)-acetamide (1.03 g, 2.85 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 ml) under nitrogen was cooled to -78 °C followed by the dropwise addition of LDA (2.1 ml, 2M solution, 4.3 mmol).

The reaction was continued to stir for an hour at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and then quenched with allyl bromide (0.44 ml, 2.85 mmol). The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and continued to stir overnight. The solution was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organics were collected and washed with water, brine and then dried (MgSO_4). Purification by column chromatography in hexane/EtOAc (1:1) afforded a white solid (0.662 g, 58 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.703 min. 402/404 (MH^+).

Step 5

1-(1-Acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-ethanone

A solution of N-(4-acetyl-5-benzyloxy-2-bromo-phenyl)-N-allyl-acetamide (0.662 g, 1.65 mmol), $\text{P}(o\text{-tolyl})_3$ (0.028 g, 0.092 mmol) and triethylamine (0.34 ml, 2.24 mmol) in MeCN (15 ml) was flushed with nitrogen, followed by the addition of a $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (0.005 g). The reaction was microwaved for 500 sec. at $150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The crude mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and dried over MgSO_4 . Purification by column chromatography in hexane/EtOAc (1:1) afforded (0.283 g, 54 %) a cream solid. LC/MS: RT = 2.742 min. 322 (MH^+), 344 (MNa^+), 280 ($\text{MH}^+\text{-Ac}$).

Step 6

1-(1-Acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2,2-dibromo-ethanone

To a solution of 1-(1-acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-ethanone (0.283 g, 0.88 mmol) in anhydrous THF (6 ml) was added $\text{PhNMe}_3\text{Br}_3$ (0.497 g, 2.3 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. The solution was diluted with water and the organics extracted with Et_2O and dried over MgSO_4 to afford the crude product (0.420 g, > 90 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.900 min. 478/480 (MH^+).

Step 7

1-(1-Acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2-bromo-ethanone

The crude product 1-(1-acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2,2-dibromo-ethanone (0.42 g, 0.88 mmol) was suspended in THF (4 ml), followed by the addition of triethylamine (0.12 ml, 0.89 mmol) and $(\text{EtO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{H}$ (0.137

ml, 0.88 mmol). After stirring overnight at room temperature, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with H₂O, brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product purified by column chromatography in hexane/EtOAc (1:1) to give the product (0.039 g, 11 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.830 min. 400/402 (MH⁺).

Step 8

4-[2-(6-Benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester

Compound 1-(1-acetyl-6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2-bromo-ethanone (0.039 g, 0.1 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.019 g, 0.14 mmol) and Cbz-piperidine (0.026 ml, 0.1 mmol) was stirred in DMF (2 ml) at room temperature for 5 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue redissolved in DCM and washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄. Purification by column chromatography in hexane/EtOAc (3:2) afforded the product (0.008 g, 17 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.236 min. 498 (MH⁺).

Step 9

4-[1-(6-Benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indole-5-carbonyl)-2-dimethylamino-vinyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester

A solution of 4-[2-(6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (0.661 g, 1.33 mmol) in DMFDMA (5 ml) was heated at 100 °C overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product purified by column chromatography in hexane/EtOAc (1:1) to afford the product (0.158 g, 22 %). LC/MS: RT = 5.33 min. 553 (MH⁺).

Step 10

4-[3-(6-Benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester

A solution of 4-[1-(6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indole-5-carbonyl)-2-dimethylamino-vinyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (0.158 g, 0.29 mmol) and hydrazine (0.75 ml, 15.5 mmol) in EtOH was refluxed for 1 hour, after which time the reaction had gone to completion. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the product purified by column chromatography in

hexane/EtOAc (1:1) to afford an off-white solid (0.0445 g, 30 %). LC/MS: RT = 2.713 min. 522 (MH⁺).

Step 11

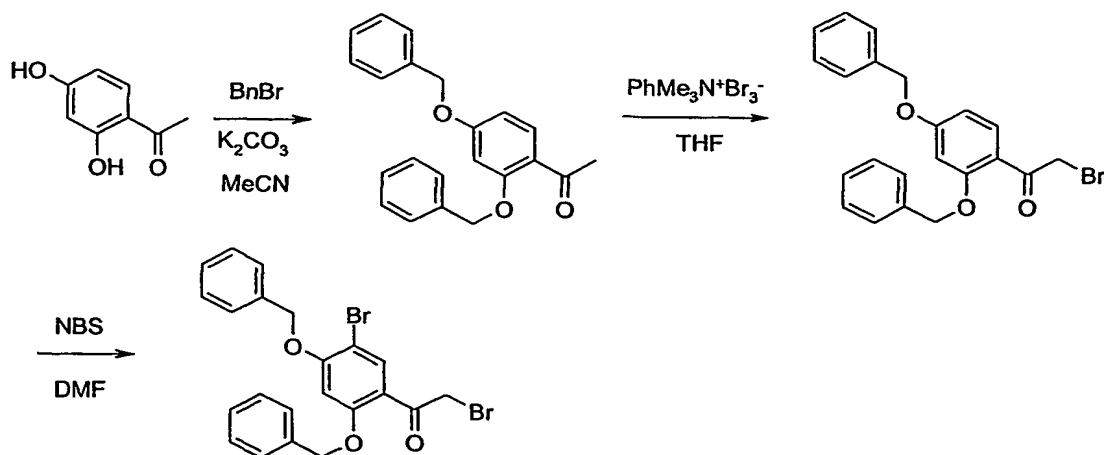
3-Methyl-5-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-6-ol

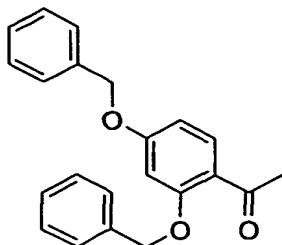
A solution of 4-[3-(6-benzyloxy-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (0.022 g, 0.042 mmol) in MeOH (2 ml) was evacuated and flushed with nitrogen. 10 % Pd/C (10 mg) was added to the solution and the suspension was evacuated and flushed with hydrogen. The reaction was shaken at room temperature under a hydrogen atmosphere overnight. The reaction was filtered through celite and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The final product was salted with HCl/Et₂O and triturated with ether to afford a pale brown solid (0.0046 g, 33 %). LC/MS: 1.495 min. 298 (MH⁺).

The compound of this Example 54 had activity 'B' in the Hsp90 FP binding assay.

The compounds of Examples 55-64 below, containing a resorcinol ring substituted with bromine, were prepared analogously to Scheme 1 but via the bromo analogue of the intermediate of Step 3 of Example 1. That bromo intermediate was prepared according to Scheme 6 as follows:

Scheme 6

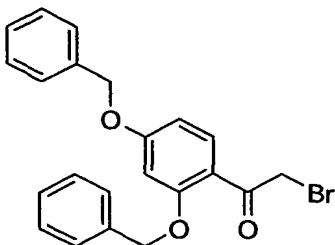


Step 1**1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-ethanone**

Benzyl bromide (35.6 mL, 0.3 mol) was added to a suspension of 2,4-dihydroxyacetophenone (15g, 0.1 mol) and potassium carbonate (41.4 g, 0.3 mol) in acetonitrile (150 mL) and the mixture stirred overnight. After concentration to dryness, the residues were resuspended in dichloromethane (100 mL) and washed with water (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated. Trituration with hexanes, filtration and drying in vacuo gave 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-ethanone as a white powder (26g).

LC retention time 2.83 minutes, $[M+H]^+$ 333.3

(Run time 3.75min)

Step 2**1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone**

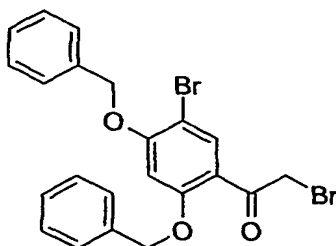
Phenyltrimethylammonium tribromide (5.6g, 0.015mol) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-ethanone (5.0g, 0.015mol) in tetrahydrofuran (50ml) and the mixture was stirred for 2h. The mixture was partitioned between water (50ml) and diethyl ether (2x50ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated to

give 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone as a beige solid which was used without further purification.

LC retention time 2.89 minutes, $[M+H]^+$ 411.2 and 413.2 (Run time 3.75min)

Step 3

1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-bromo-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone

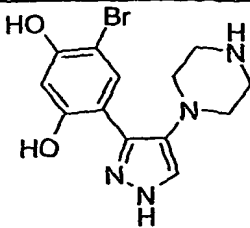
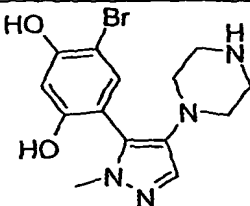
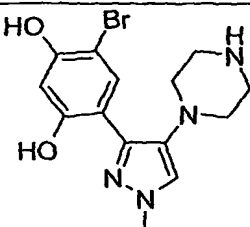
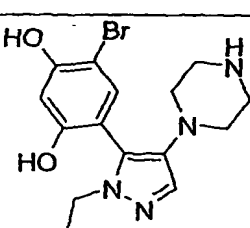
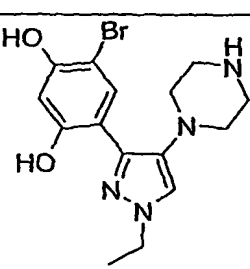
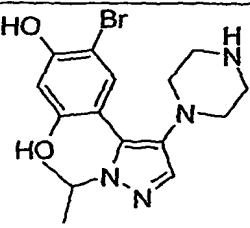


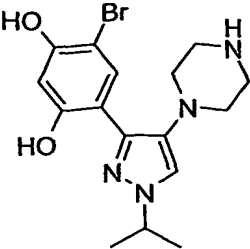
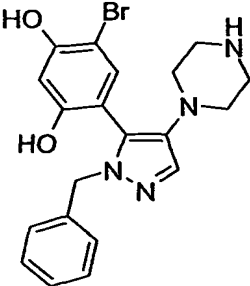
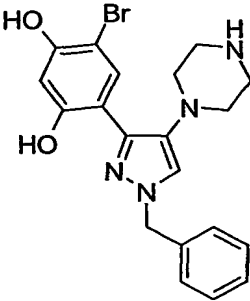
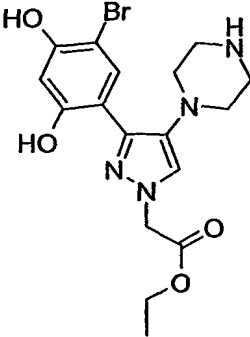
N-bromo succinimide (2.67 g, 0.015mol) was added to a stirred solution of crude 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxyphenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone (ca. 6.16g, 0.015mol) in dimethylformamide (50ml) and the mixture was stirred for 18h. The mixture was concentrated to dryness, dissolved in dichloromethane (50 mL) and washed with (2x50ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated to give 1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-bromo-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone as a white solid, which was used without further purification.

LC retention time 2.99 minutes, $[M+Na]^+$ 511.2, 513.2 and 515.2 (Run time 3.75min)

In the following table of Examples, the entries in the column "Hsp90 IC50" are again the results obtained in the ATPase assay described below:

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
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Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
55		339,341	B
56		353,355	B
57		353,355	B
58		367,369	B
59		367,369	B
60		381,383	B

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
61		381,383	B
62		429,431	B
63		429,431	B
64		425,427	B

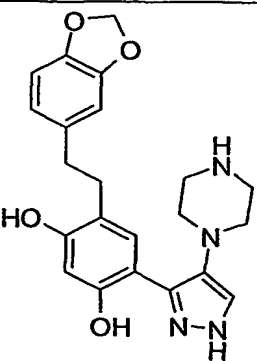
The compounds of Examples 65-76 below were prepared using the compound of Example 55 as an intermediate. For example, the compound of Example 70 was prepared as follows, and the compounds of the additional Examples 65-69 and 71-76 were prepared analogously.:

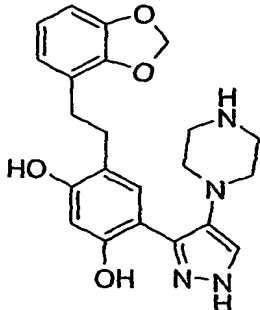
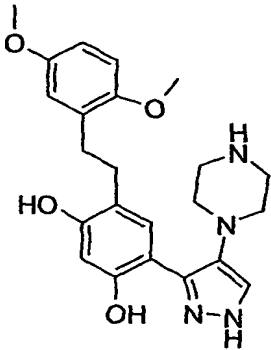
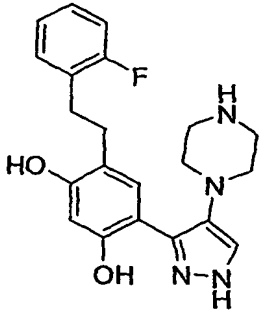
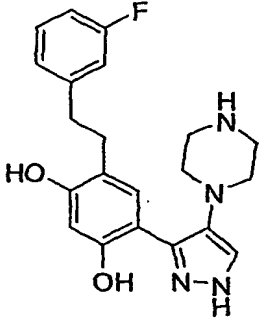
Step 1**Coupling of bromo intermediate to form styryl intermediate**

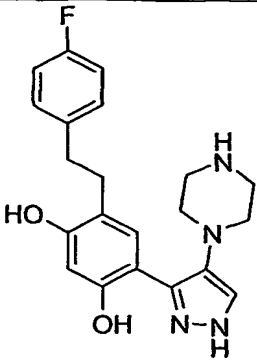
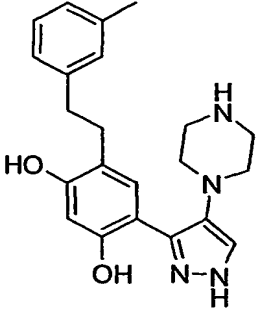
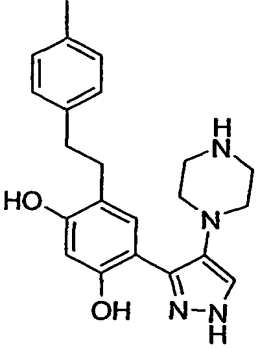
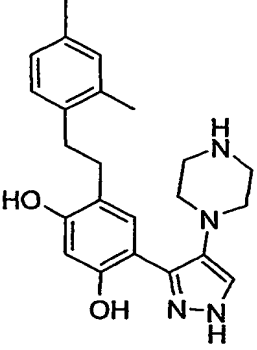
A mixture of 4-bromo-6-(4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-benzene-1,3-diol (Example 58) (1 equiv.), 4-fluorostyrene (3 equiv.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (3 equiv.) in *n*-butanol (50 mL per equiv.) was degassed ($3 \times$ nitrogen/vacuum). Dichlorobis(tri-*o*-tolylphosphino)palladium(II) (2mol%) was added and the mixture heated under reflux for 15 hours. The mixture was filtered through a small plug of silica and the silica washed with dichloromethane.

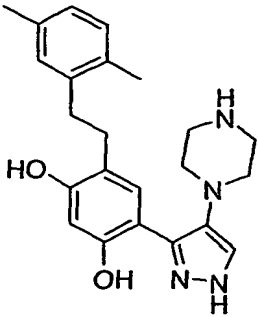
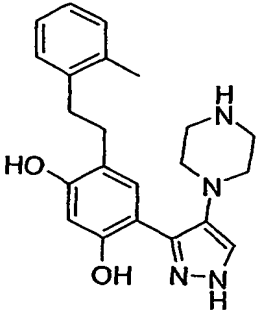
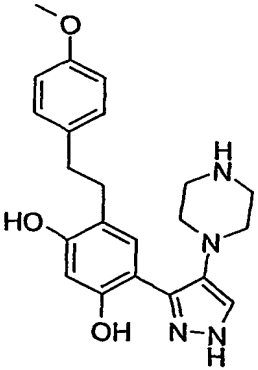
Step 2**Reduction to phenethyl compounds:**

A solution of sodium acetate (1.0 M in H₂O, 3 equiv.) was added dropwise over 2 hours to a refluxing solution of alkene (1 equiv.) and *p*-toluenesulphonyl hydrazide (3 equiv.) in 1,2-DME, and refluxing continued for 20 hours. The mixture was cooled, poured into water and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography.

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
65		409	A

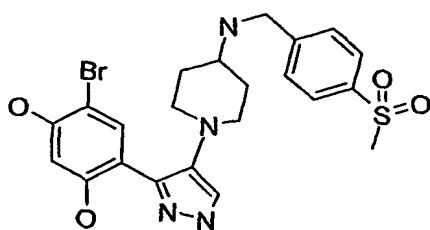
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
66		409	A
67		425	A
68		383	A
69		383	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
70		383	A
71		379	A
72		379	A
73		393	A

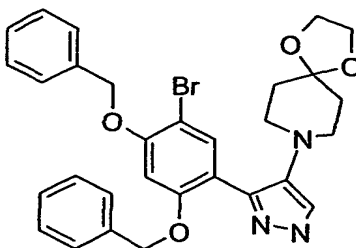
Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
74		393	A
75		379	A
76		395	A

Example 77

4-Bromo-6-{4-[4-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-benzene-1,3-diol



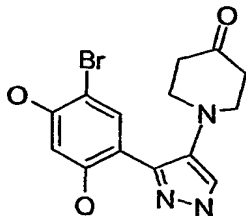
Step 1

8-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1,4-dioxo-8-aza-spiro[4.5]decane

1-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-bromo-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone (prepared according to Scheme 6 above) (15.56g, 31.74mmol) was dissolved in dimethylformamide (20ml). 1,4-Dioxo-8-aza-spiro[4.5]decane (4.55g, 31.74mmol) and triethylamine (4.42ml, 31.74mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (60ml, 452mmol) and stirred at 110°C for 16 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and concentrated *in vacuo* to leave a brown oil. This was dissolved in ethanol (100ml) and hydrazine hydrate (23.8g, 476mmol) and refluxed for 16 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and evaporated to dryness and purified on silica gel by flash chromatography. The product was eluted with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:1), the combined fractions were evaporated and the residue was triturated with diethyl ether to yield an off-white solid (6.31g).

LC retention time 2.79 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 576.4 and 578.4 (bromine splitting pattern) (Run time 3.75min)

Step 2

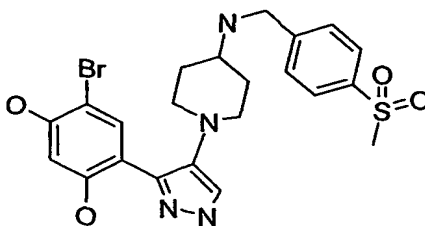
1-[3-(5-Bromo-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperidin-4-one

8-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1,4-dioxo-8-aza-spiro[4.5]decane (6.55g, 11.4mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (70ml) and cooled to 0°C. Boron trichloride (1M in dichloromethane, 57ml, 57mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 30 minutes. It was then quenched with water (50ml) at 0°C, warmed to room temperature and stirred for 3 days. The reaction was neutralised to pH=7 with saturated aqueous sodium hydrogencarbonate solution, the light brown precipitate was filtered off and washed with water and then dried in a vacuum oven (2.25g).

LC retention time 1.89 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 352.4 and 354.2 (bromine splitting pattern)
(Run time 3.75min)

Step 3

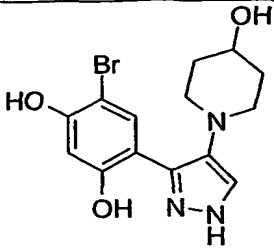
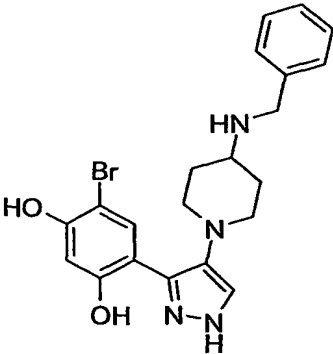
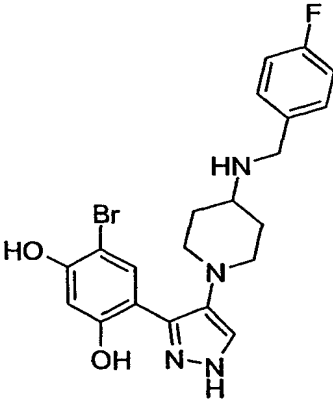
4-Bromo-6-{4-[4-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-benzene-1,3-diol

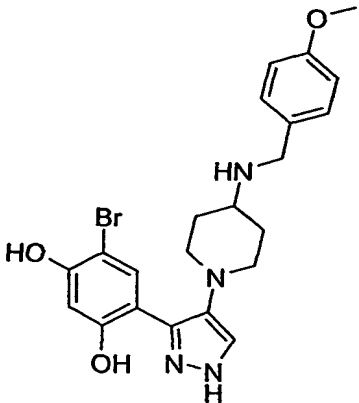
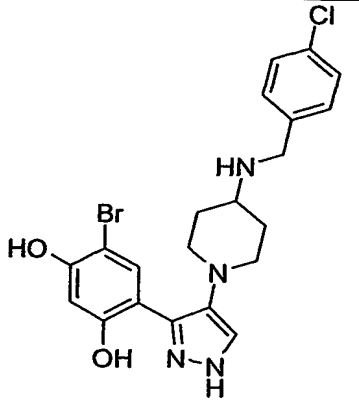
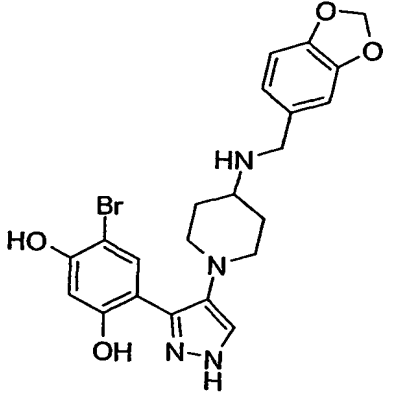


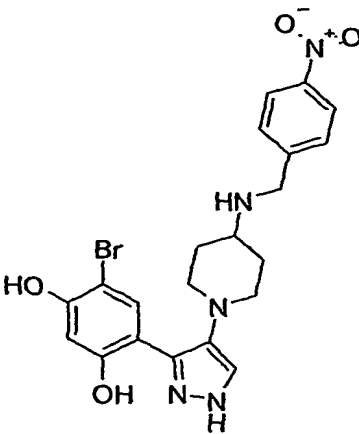
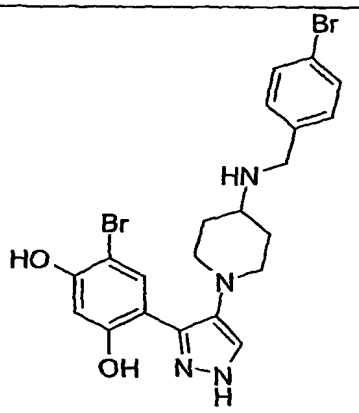
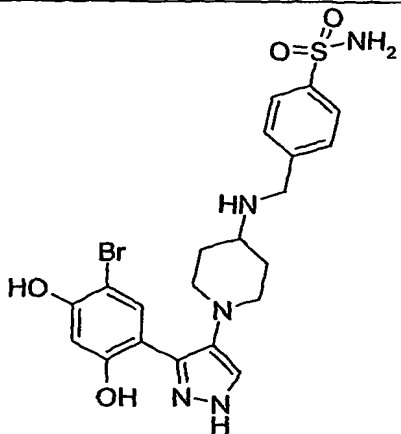
1-[3-(5-Bromo-2,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-piperidin-4-one (0.1g, 0.284mmol) was dissolved in methanol (3ml). Triethylamine (0.044ml, 0.312mmol) and 4-methanesulfonyl-benzylamine hydrochloride (0.069g, 0.312mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. Excess sodium borohydride was added and the solvent was removed in vacuo when the fizzing ceased.. The residue was purified on silica by flash chromatography. The product eluted in methanol/dichloromethane (1:9). Further purification by HPLC was necessary. White solid, yield 0.036g. LC retention time 1.68 minutes $[M+H]^+$ 521.3 and 523.3 (bromine splitting pattern)
(Run time 3.75min)

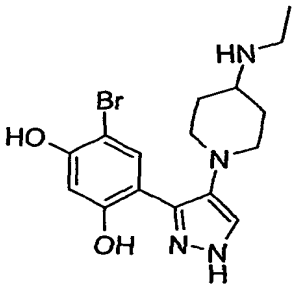
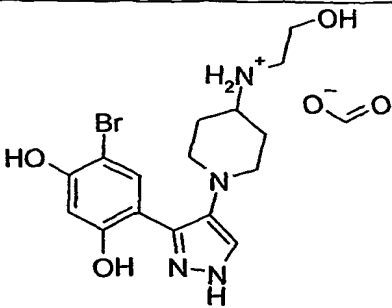
The compounds of Examples 78-88 were prepared analogously to the compound of Example 80 by reaction in Step 5 of appropriate amine with the

Step 4 intermediate. Again the entries in the column "Hsp90 IC50" are the results obtained in the ATPase assay described below:

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
78		355, 357	B
79		444, 446	A
80		462, 464	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
81		474, 476	A
82		478, 480	A
83		488, 490	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
84		489, 491	A
85		523, 525	A
86		523, 525	A

Example	Structure	MH+	Hsp90 IC50
97		382, 384	A
98		399, 401	A

Biological Results

The intrinsic ATPase activity of HSP90 may be measured using yeast HSP90 as a model system. The assay, based on the use of *malachite green* for the measurement of inorganic phosphate, was used to test the HSP90 inhibitory activity of the compounds of the Examples herein.

Malachite Green ATPase Assay

Materials

Chemicals are of the highest purity commercially available and all aqueous solutions are made up in AR water. Because of the need to minimise contamination with inorganic phosphate, precautions should be taken with solutions and apparatus used in the assays. Glassware and pH meters are rinsed with double distilled or deionised water before use and, wherever possible, plastic ware should be used. Gloves are worn for all procedures.

- (1) Greiner 384-well (Greiner 781101) or Costar 384-well flat-bottomed polystyrene multiwell plates (VWR).

- (2) Assay buffer of (a) 100mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, (b) 150mM KCl, (c) 6mM MgCl_2 . Stored at room temperature.
- (3) 0.0812% (w/v) malachite green (M 9636, Sigma Aldrich Ltd., Poole, UK). Stored at room temperature.
- (4) 2.32% (w/v) polyvinyl alcohol USP (P 1097, Sigma Aldrich Ltd, Poole, UK) in boiling water (see Comment 1), allowed to cool, and stored at room temperature.
- (5) 5.72% (w/v) ammonium molybdate in 6 M hydrochloric acid. Stored at room temperature.
- (6) 34% (w/v) sodium citrate. Stored at room temperature.
- (7) 100mM ATP, disodium salt, special quality (47699, Sigma Aldrich). Stored at -20°C .
- (8) E. coli expressed yeast HSP90 protein, purified >95% (see, e.g., Panaretou et al., 1998) and stored in 50 μL aliquots at -80°C .

Method

1. Dilute test compounds to 500 μM in AR water (DMSO concentration will be 2.5%). Transfer 2.5 μL of these compounds directly from the daughter plate to the assay plate, giving a final assay concentration of 100 μM . To obtain 12 point IC_{50} values, perform serial dilutions 1:2 to produce a range of assay concentrations from 100 μM to 97.6nM (2.5% DMSO), and transfer 2.5 μL of each concentration into the assay plate. Column 1 in the assay plate contains no compound, as a negative control. An additional row with no compound is also used as a background.
2. Prepare ATP by diluting 100mM stock to 925 μM with assay buffer, and aliquot 5 μL of diluted ATP to each well including controls (final assay concentration 370 μM).
3. Add 5 μL of buffer to background row.
4. Dilute enzyme preparation to 1.05 μM with assay buffer, and aliquot 5 μL into each compound well and to the negative control column.
5. Collect the reagents to the bottom of the well, cover plate with plate seal and incubate overnight at 37°C .

6. First thing in the morning prepare the Malachite Green Reagent. Add 2 parts of Malachite Green Solution, 1 part of Polyvinyl Alcohol Solution, 1 part of Ammonium Molybdate Solution, and 2 parts of AR water.
7. Invert to mix, and leave for approximately 1 hour until the colour turns from brown to golden yellow.
8. Add 40 µl of Malachite Green Reagent to each well, allow 5 mins for colour to develop.
9. Add 5 µl of Sodium Citrate Reagent to each well (see comment 2)
10. Re-cover with plate seal and shake on plate shaker for at least 15 mins.
11. Measure Absorbance at 620 nm using a suitable plate reader (e.g. Victor, Perkin Elmer Life Sciences, Milton Keynes, UK). Under these conditions, the control absorbance is 0.9 to 1.4, and the background is 0.2-0.35 giving a signal to noise ratio of ~12. The Z' factor calculated from data obtained using these conditions is between 0.6 and 0.9.

Comments

- (1) The polyvinyl alcohol dissolves in boiling water with difficulty and stirring for 2-3 h is required.
- (2) The time interval between addition of the malachite green reagent and the sodium citrate should be kept as short as possible in order to reduce the non-enzymatic hydrolysis of ATP. Once the sodium citrate is added, the colour is stable for up to 4 h at room temperature.
- (3) Compounds can be added to the assay plates using a Biomek FX Robot (Beckman Coulter). A Multidrop 384 dispenser (Thermo Labsystems, Basingstoke, UK) can be conveniently used to add reagents to the plate.
- (4) The assay conditions were optimised with respect to time, protein and substrate concentration in order to achieve minimal protein concentration whilst retaining signal to noise differential.
- (5) Signal to noise (S/N) is calculated using the following equation:

$$(S-B) / \sqrt{(SD \text{ of } S)^2 + (SD \text{ of } B)^2}$$

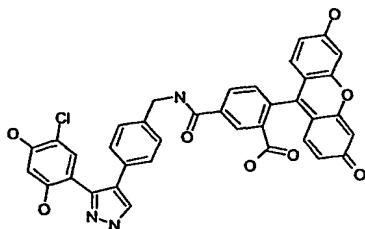
- (6) To determine specific activity of HSP90, a range of inorganic phosphate concentrations (0-10 μM) are prepared and the absorbance at 620 nm measured as described. Specific activity is calculated from the resulting calibration curve.

The compounds tested in the above assay were assigned to one of two activity ranges, namely A = $<50\mu\text{M}$; B = $>50\mu\text{M}$, and those assignments are reported above.

Fluorescence Polarization Assay

Fluorescence polarization {also known as fluorescence anisotropy} measures the rotation of a fluorescing species in solution, where the larger molecule the more polarized the fluorescence emission. When the fluorophore is excited with polarized light, the emitted light is also polarized. The molecular size is proportional to the polarization of the fluorescence emission.

The fluorescein-labelled probe – RBT0045864-FAM –



binds to HSP90 { full-length human, full-length yeast or N-terminal domain HSP90 } and the anisotropy {rotation of the probe:protein complex} is measured.

Test compound is added to the assay plate, left to equilibrate and the anisotropy measured again. Any change in anisotropy is due to competitive binding of compound to HSP90, thereby releasing probe.

Materials

Chemicals are of the highest purity commercially available and all aqueous solutions are made up in AR water.

- 1) Costar 96-well black assay plate #3915
- 2) Assay buffer of (a)100mM Tris pH7.4; (b) 20mM KCl; (c) 6mM MgCl₂.
Stored at room temperature.
- 3) BSA (bovine serum albumen) 10 mg/ml (New England Biolabs # B9001S)
- 4) 20 mM probe in 100 % DMSO stock concentration. Stored in the dark at RT. Working concentration is 200 nM diluted in AR water and stored at 4 °C. Final concentration in assay 80 nM.
- 5) E. coli expressed human full-length HSP90 protein, purified >95% (see, e.g., Panaretou et al., 1998) and stored in 50µL aliquots at -80°C .

Protocol

- 1) Add 100µl 1x buffer to wells 11A and 12A (=FP BLNK)
- 2) Prepare assay mix – all reagents are kept on ice with a lid on the bucket as the probe is light-sensitive.

	i. Final Conc ⁿ	
• 1x Hsp90 FP Buffer	10 ml	1x
• BSA 10mg/ml (NEB) 5 µg/ml	5.0 µl	
• Probe 200µM 80 nM	4.0 µl	
• Human full-length Hsp90 200 nM	6.25 µl	

- 3) Aliquot 100µl assay mix to all other wells
- 4) Seal plate and leave in dark at room temp for 20 minutes to equilibrate

Compound Dilution Plate – 1 x 3 dilution series

- 1) In a clear 96-well v-bottom plate – {# VWR 007/008/257} add 10 μ l 100% DMSO to wells B1 to H11
- 2) To wells A1 to A11 add 17.5 μ l 100% DMSO
- 3) Add 2.5 μ l cpd to A1. This gives 2.5 mM {50x} stock cpd – assuming cpds 20 mM.
- 4) Repeat for wells A2 to A10. Control in columns 11 and 12.
- 5) Transfer 5 μ l from row A to row B- not column 12. Mix well.
- 6) Transfer 5 μ l from row B to row C. Mix well.
- 7) Repeat to row G.
- 8) Do not add any compound to row H – this is the 0 row.
- 9) This produces a 1x3 dilution series from 50 μ M to 0.07 μ M.
- 10) In well B12 prepare 20 μ l of 100 μ M standard compound.
- 11) After first incubation the assay plate is read on a Fusion™ a-FP plate reader (Packard BioScience, Pangbourne, Berkshire, UK).
- 12) After the first read, 2 μ l of diluted compound is added to each well for columns 1 to 10. In column 11 {provides standard curve} only add compound B11 – H11. Add 2 μ l of 100mM standard cpd to wells B12 – H12 {is positive control }
- 13) The Z' factor is calculated from zero controls and positive wells. It typically gives a value of 0.7 – 0.9.

The compounds tested in the above assay were assigned to one of two activity ranges, namely A = <10 μ M; B = >10 μ M, and those assignments are reported above.

A growth inhibition assay was also employed for the evaluation of candidate HSP90 inhibitors:

Assessment of cytotoxicity by Sulforhodamine B (SRB) assay: calculation of 50% inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀).

Day 1

- 1) Determine cell number by haemocytometer.
- 2) Using an 8 channel multipipettor, add 160µl of the cell suspension (3600 cells/well or 2×10^4 cells/ml) to each well of a 96-well microtitre plate.
- 3) Incubate overnight at 37°C in a CO₂ incubator.

Day 2

- 4) Stock solutions of drugs are prepared, and serial dilutions of each drug are performed in medium to give final concentrations in wells.
- 5) Using a multipipettor, 40µl of drug (at 5x final concentration) is added to quadruplicate wells.
- 6) Control wells are at either side of the 96 well plates, where 40µl of medium is added.
- 7) Incubate plates in CO₂ incubator for 4 days (48 hours).

Day 6

- 8) Tip off medium into sink and immerse plate slowly into 10% ice cold trichloroacetic acid (TCA). Leave for about 30mins on ice.
- 9) Wash plates three times in tap water by immersing the plates into baths of tap water and tipping it off.
- 10) Dry in incubator.
- 11) Add 100µl of 0.4% SRB in 1% acetic acid to each well (except the last row (right hand) of the 96 well plate, this is the 0% control, ie no drug, no stain. The first row will be the 100% control with no drug, but with stain). Leave for 15 mins.
- 12) Wash off unbound SRB stain with four washes of 1% acetic acid.
- 13) Dry plates in incubator.
- 14) Solubilise SRB using 100µl of 10mM Tris base and put plates on plate shaker for 5 mins.

- 15) Determine absorbance at 540nm using a plate reader. Calculate mean absorbance for quadruplicate wells and express as a percentage of value for control, untreated wells.
- 16) Plot % absorbance values versus log drug concentration and determine the IC₅₀.

By way of illustration, the compound of Example 2 gave an IC₅₀ in the 'A' range (<50uM) for the SRB growth arrest assay.

REFERENCES

A number of publications are cited above in order to more fully describe and disclose the invention and the state of the art to which the invention pertains. Full citations for these references are provided below. Each of these references is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety into the present disclosure.

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